Charges filed vs 2 alleged illegal construction workers. PAGE 2
Hawaii volcanic haze lingers over Marianas. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 107

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY MAY 31, 2018 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

DUE TO RISE IN FUEL PRICES

CUC increases power rate

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced last night that it is increasing its fuel adjustment charge, effective tomorrow, due to a rise in average international fuel prices.

The current FAC rate of $0.20109 per kilowatt-hour will increase to $0.22317 per kWh effective June 1, 2018.

Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately

See CUC on Page 4

Pot bill supporters tout benefits

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Supporters of a bill to legalize marijuana use in the CNMI said that decriminalizing the weed would be beneficial for the Commonwealth since a new industry would come out once the prohibition is lifted.

Dr. John Doyle, an internal medicine physician at the Commonwealth Health Center and private clinic Marianas Medical Center; community member Matthew Borja; and Gerry Hemley, of pro-marijuana group Sensible CNMI, each outlined the benefits for the CNMI if Senate Bill 20-62, which would allow medicinal and recreational use of marijuana, is enacted.

See POT on Page 4

Federal court dismisses former PSS commissioner's remaining 2 claims

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice yesterday the two remaining claims of former Education commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero against the Board of Education over her termination.

Deleon Guerrero

Dismissal with prejudice means Deleon Guerrero can no longer re-file the claims. Manglona closed the case.

The two claims are an alleged violation of Deleon Guerrero's due process rights and conspiracy to do so.

Citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Manglona said that, in pleading a due process claim involving harm

See FEDERAL on Page 4

Terry's Snack Bar, a local food establishment, is named the best booth at the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA.

Snack bar wins best booth at 'Taste'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the newest booths at the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas took home the title of Best Booth.

Terry's Snack Bar, a local food establishment, went all out to ensure that their booth was the most locally decorated and whimsical among the rest.

Terry's Snack bar owner Terry Basa Pertudu said this was her first year to join the Taste of the Marianas and she was shocked by the news that her booth was recognized with the honor. This year's food festival was held at the American Memorial Park.

The Terry's Snack Bar booth was adorned with local flowers and greens, with a little waterfall by the side of the booth to tie the island theme together.

Pertudu was inspired by her own home, which is bedecked and surrounded by

See SNACK on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Reefs in the CNMI, from Rota to Uracas, have not been spared from coral bleaching.

PAGE 6

WORLD
A prison inmate on a 48-hour leave stabbed two police officers in the Belgian city of Liege.

PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
ABC cancels its hit reboot of "Roseanne" following star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet.

PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Charges filed vs 2 alleged illegal construction workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government filed yesterday separate charges in federal court against two overstaying tourists who were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement last week for allegedly working illegally as construction workers.

Shubiao Niu and Youcai Li are each charged with improper entry by an alien.

According to assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Niu, a Chinese citizen, lied to U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors on Jan. 24, 2016, that his purpose for entering the CNMI was for "tourism." In fact, Niu intended to find work and live here, O'Malley said, under the CNMI-only conditional parole program, in violation of the U.S. Code.

He accused Li of the same thing, saying Li also lied to a CBP inspector on March 18, 2018.

ICE agents arrested the two along the road near Moonlight Shopping along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa last week.

ICE agents have been investigating reports about many illegal construction workers, most of them Chinese, in many areas on Saipan.

American Sinopan donates computers to Tanapag

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

American Sinopan chief executive officer Ken Li, second left, joins students, officers, and members of the Tanapag Community Enhancement Association after donating computers to the Tanapag Middle School yesterday.

American Sinopan LLC donated more than 10 desktop computers to the Tanapag Middle School yesterday, highlighting the company's hope for a sustainable partnership with the Tanapag community

Ken Lin, chief executive officer of American Sinopan, said they look forward to working with non-profit group Tanapag Community Enhancement Group, to benefit the Tanapag community.

Lin and company chief engineer James Bi turned over the equipment for a planned computer room that would help the students with their schoolwork and keep them updated with the technological world.

TMS students, along with Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), TCEA vice president Juan Tenorio, secretary Fabiana Pangelinan, and members Benigno Sablan, Ken Benjamin, and Danny Sablan were present to receive the new computers.

Lin said their company is very new to the island as they have only been here for two years. "We're very happy that the [Tanapag] community has embraced us. They even let us experience a local barbecue. The people here are feisty but friendly."

"We're just happy to be part of the TCEA group. We wanted to keep ties. …We want to have a sustainable group. I'm proud to say that this is not a one-time thing but a long partnership."

Pangelinan, who is also American Sinopan's administrative assistant, added: [American Sinopan] hasn't officially been up yet but they've been donating and assisting the Tanapag community since last year."

Lin said they have other plans to help improve the surrounding environs of Tanapag. "This [computer donation] is for the kids to actually have a computer lab. But we also have other plans for the community like fixing schools, and improving the church and beaches through the help of TCEA. Through us, this is a very good way of seeing a sustainable process for the community. It is both ways, our partnership is a give and take situation," added Lin.

Tenorio said TCEA was established as a community-enhancement group. "We've [TCEA] become fruitful because of the help of American Sinopan and their commitment to enhance the image of the community."

Igitol, who is running for re-election with Senate senior legislative assistant Joel Camacho for the two Precinct 4 seats, said the Tanapag community is truly grateful for American Sinopan's support.

"We're blessed that they donated this to our children at [TMS]. We're still working to do more for our community. They're not only helping Tanapag but the CNMI as a whole. They've been a lot of help for us."

'Your grade does not define you'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School's 2018 valedictorian Louise Li, front left, and salutatorian Joyce Anne Rios Nisola, second left, join their fellow Top 10 members with the dignitaries after receiving their awards in yesterday's commencement exercises at the school grounds.

JON PEREZ

Marianas High School's 2018 class valedictorian Louise Zheng Li joined her friends and classmates in receiving their diplomas in yesterday's more than two-hour-long commencement exercise at the school grounds.

Li, who was also the recipient of the CNMI State Board of Education award, only learned that she would be graduating at the top of her class last Friday.

"I could barely digest the idea of it. I just didn't feel like I deserved it. There were several people who worked harder than me," she said.

In her speech, though, Li reminded her fellow graduates that their grades do not define who they truly are. "I want you all to know that your grades don't define you. They don't define the amount of effort you exert. They don't define how smart you are. And they don't definitely define where you're going to end up in the future."

She added that they would encounter other things in their lives that would be more emotionally challenging. "You're going to encounter several moments in your life where you aren't happy with where you are. There are going to be times where you feel completely defeated. And that's totally fine… You're going to get out of that rut. So don't doubt yourself. Don't doubt your potential, because you are a part of a class that exudes potential. We're always going to encounter hardships in our lives. And those hardships are going to offer us opportunities to grow and lessons to learn," said Li.

LOUISE ZHENG LI
Valedictorian

JOYCE ANE RIOS NISOLA
Salutatorian

Class salutatorian Joyce Ane Rios Nisola said that resilience is the one thing that they all have in common. "Resilience is toughness. It's the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. …Many of us have been dealt with bad cards; cards that we did not want and yet, against all odds, amidst the fear, the difficulties, and heartaches, here we are. We are a resilient class."

Nisola also received the Commissioner's Award.

Chloe Hazel Anne Perone Salvosa, this year's Student Council president and runner-up in the 2018 Miss Marianas, was honored with the Governor's Award that was given by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres.

Lischulisch William received the Lieutenant Governor's Excelsior Award, which was presented to a graduating senior that had overcome challenges and obstacles in life. Ryan Christopher Uvero Relucio was honored with the Principal's Award.

Li, Nisola, John Michael Ortizo Costales, Relucio, Amelito Obtinalla Dalusong Jr., Diana Pacanan Maniacop, Salvosa, Catherine Nicole Diotares Roque, Chenoa Gale Bunts-Anderson, and Miguel Andrei De Leon Aninon completed the Top 10.

Palau President Tommy Remengasau was the keynote speaker in the graduation that was also attended by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann T. Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, CNMI Board of Education officials led by vice chair Janice Tenorio, and Public School System commissioners led by interim commissioner Glenn Muna.

There was a total of 382 MHS graduates in all.

Torres takes part in first YG Freedom Ride

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To pay tribute to fallen heroes, the new motorcycle club Young Gunz Marianas hosted its first Freedom Ride with the participation of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Saturday, May 26, 2018.

The "Heroes Freedom Ride," intended to honor servicemembers who gave their lives and to remember their families, also recognized local law enforcement officers as part of the celebration of CNMI Police Week.

According to Young Gunz Marianas adviser and Matua Riders official Marie Salas-Igitol, the group invited Torres and members of the Matua Riders Motorcycle Club to join in the ride.

"It was a great turnout as both clubs and other two-wheel riders joined in the event. We rode around the island and then made our second pit stop at the Veterans Cemetery to pay our respects. The end point of the Tribute Ride was at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor, during which Young Gunz Marianas and Torres delivered words of appreciation," she said.

On Monday, May 28, the Young Gunz Marianas again revved up to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

"Memorial Day is always an emotional day, especially for the surviving families. It is a reflection on honor, sacrifice, and duty. Let none of us forget what Memorial Day really is... to remember all those who had fallen and be happy and grateful to the ones who still live and remember," she said.

Young Gunz Marianas consists of the younger generation of Matua Riders. Young Gunz Marianas and Matua Riders are two separate motorcycle clubs. The Young Gunz currently consists of 40 members.

Members of the motorcycle club Young Gunz Marianas pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres before taking part in a Freedom Ride last Saturday, May 26, 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 for a 3rd Party Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe
Some conditions may apply

Kilili: Vets clinic study clears the Senate, White House next

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that his language—mandating a feasibility study for a Department of Veterans Affairs-operated medical clinic in the Marianas—has passed the U.S. Senate as part of the VA Mission Act of 2018.

The House passed the bill on May 16, so the next step is for the President to sign the measure into law.

The Marianas is the only state or territory in America without a VA clinic. Making sure that Marianas veterans have access locally to the specialized care that a VA clinic can provide is one of Sablan's top priorities.

"Our veterans in the Marianas deserve their own community-based outpatient cinic," Sablan said. "Guam has a CBOC. Hawaii veterans have CBOCs on Kauai, Maui, the Big Island. Even American Samoa has its own community-based outpatient clinic. And that is what I want for our veterans, too: a full-time, VA-staffed clinic with dedicated healthcare providers."

Sablan has attached language to three different legislative vehicles in this Congress to authorize a clinic feasibility study.

"Now that both the House and the Senate have passed the VA Mission Act—and the bill is on the way to President—it looks like we are going to get across the finish line," added Sablan.

The work to improve veterans' healthcare began with the award of a grant for an outreach clinic on Saipan in 2009, Sablan's first year in office. He was concerned about veterans on Rota and Tinian, however, who still had to travel for care.

Over the ensuing years, Sablan became a voice for veterans in remote areas all over America. Raising awareness of the difficulty of getting to a VA clinic for veterans living hundreds of miles away or who could only reach a clinic by plane eventually led to creation of the national Choice program. With Choice, veterans could go to a local healthcare provider and the Veterans Administration would pay.

To raise awareness of the Choice program—among both veterans and healthcare providers in the Marianas—Sablan arranged for the CEO of TriWest, one of the companies that manages Choice for the VA, to come to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last year. As a result, the number of Choice providers tripled and veterans gained greater access to care.

Obtaining a full-scale VA clinic, however, will first require a feasibility study to justify the expense of a building and the ongoing costs of staffing and operation.

"I know the word 'study' is sometime interpreted to mean delay," Sablan said. "But this is the way federal government works. This is how we got the AAFES troop store expansion. First, I put the study in the National Defense Authorization Act to justify the cost. Then, when the study gave the green light, we were able to get funding."

Prior to getting his clinic study language into the VA Mission Act, Sablan was also able to include it in H.R. 4243, the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017, and H.R. 4242, the VA Care in the Community Act. Though introduced by the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, those bills have not passed the House.

"I have learned you have to be persistent and have a Plan B… and a Plan C," said Sablan. "That is how to get things done in Congress for the people you work for." ***(PR)***

Free Samsung Galaxy S7
Congrats
your adventure begins now
GRADUATION BE
The world is yours. Explore it. Bring the Samsung Galaxy S7 with you. Get your Samsung Galaxy S7 for FREE when you sign up for a $50 plan or higher.*
store.ite.net ite_cnmi ite.cnmi
*Terms & conditions apply. Customers signing up for $50 Plan or higher can get a free Samsung S7. Offer available from May 17 to June 7 or while supplies last. Credit check or additional security deposit may be required. See stores for details or go to www.ite.net.
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

Kim request nixed but she may re-file it

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jung Ja Kim's request for a U.S. District Court order that would enable her to collect the $2.6-million judgment against disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, was dismissed last Tuesday.

However, she is allowed to re-file her application for an order in aid of judgment if she believes it necessary.

In dismissing the application, Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña said it is the court's understanding that, at this time, she is still determining whether a hearing and order from the court is necessary.

Kim, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed the application for an order in aid of judgment last Jan. 19, asking the court require the Quichocho couple to appear for a hearing and issue an order determining how they are to pay the judgment.

Last May 21, Mangloña directed Kim to explain why her application should not be denied.

Mangloña gave the order after no papers were filed in court in connection with Kim's application and no hearing date was set since the last hearing on Feb. 22, 2018.

Mangloña ordered Kim to explain why her application for an order in aid of judgment should not be denied no later than last Friday, May 25.

Mangloña

At a Feb. 22 hearing, Mangloña ordered Kim's lawyer to file and serve the Quichocho couple fact information sheets by Feb. 23, 2018. Mangloña gave the Quichochos 30 days to respond. After which, Kim would coordinate with the court on a new hearing date.

Torres earlier stated that he would send the information sheets containing the questions to the Quichochos about their assets to determine how they can pay Kim.

In Kim's response to the order to show cause, Torres said he and Kim have been diligently pursuing the matter outside of court.

Torres said he intends to subpoena the Quichochos for depositions within the next month to continue determining how best to collect the judgment from them.

Torres further indicates that if the depositions suggest fraudulent transfers of the Quichochos' properties, Kim will then request a hearing.

He said he prepared and served fact information sheets on the Quichochos following the Feb. 22 hearing, in compliance with the court's instructions.

Torres said Mr. Quichocho, in turn, served his answers and objections to the fact information sheet on him last March 24.

Prior to receiving Mr. Quichocho's responses, Torres said, he and Kim were preparing for mediation to explore settlement possibilities in a longstanding marital property dispute.

At the same time, the lawyer said, he and Kim were challenging an order of the Zoning Commission directing Kim's company and another owned by another E2C investor to cease operations.

Torres said his attention was captured in responding to these intervening issues that required immediate action. At no point, however, did he and Kim wavered in their commitment to resolve this matter.

Toward this end, Torres said, he and Kim have reviewed Mr. Quichocho's responses provided in late March 2018 and identified areas for follow up.

Torres said should there be cause to pursue what appear to be fraudulent transfers, Kim will take action to recover the properties conveyed and schedule a hearing on these matters.

In addition, Torres said, Kim will prepare to take other measures to pursue collection.

Torres concluded that he and Kim have been engaging in good faith efforts to pursue this collection action but failed in their responsibility to file appropriate paperwork with regard to a hearing date.

Torres said he takes full responsibility for his failure to communicate with the court about this matter.

Torres requested the court not to penalize Kim and to hold him solely responsible.

Because of the couple's bankruptcy filing, in May 2015 U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson suspended the proceedings pertaining to Kim's motion for an order in aid of judgment.

Kim subsequently re-filed the motion for an order in aid of judgment after the bankruptcy case was resolved.

Kim's racketeering lawsuit filed against the Quichochos and Quichocho's law firm ended in 2014 with the federal jury holding the couple liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The court later awarded Kim $387,791 for her damages, costs, and attorney's fees.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

to one's reputation, a plaintiff must also plead a deprivation of a separate liberty or property interest and that the state has changed or terminated that constitutionally protected interest.

Accordingly, Deleon Guerrero cannot assert a due process claim based solely on her reputation, as that is not a constitutionally protected, said Manglona in granting the motion to dismiss filed by the BOE.

Further, Manglona said, the alleged harm to Deleon Guerrero's reputation does not satisfy the level of stigma that the state must inflict to bring a due process claim.

The judge said the stigma must be one that "might seriously damage his standing and associations in his community" or foreclose "his freedom to take advantage of other [jobs]."

In this case, Manglona said, Deleon Guerrero alleges that the BOE has stated publicly that she was not getting along with them. Nothing about this suggests dishonesty, immorality, or misconduct, Manglona said, and does not show that Deleon Guerrero was unable to find other jobs because of it.

"Accordingly, plaintiff cannot state a claim based on harm to her reputation," the judge said.

As for the employment contract issue, Manglona found that Deleon Guerrero had no property interest in her employment contract.

Under the contract, Deleon Guerrero's term of four years was subject to all other conditions of the contract.

Manglona noted that the other conditions expressly stated that Deleon Guerrero serves "at the will of the BOE" and had no right to renewal after the four-year term expired.

In other words, Manglona said, Deleon Guerrero's contract was for at most four years but it could be terminated at any time without cause.

She said these contractual terms are consistent with local law, which provides that the commissioner of Education "shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be appointed by the Board of Education for a term of four years and may be removed by a majority vote of the members of the board."

Manglona said Deleon Guerrero therefore had no reasonable expectation of continued employment and therefore was an "at will" employee.

Deleon Guerrero also alleges that her termination violated CNMI public policy and the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

But Manglona said neither of these are civil rights violations that may be raised via civil rights action.

Moreover, Manglona said, public policy and the implied covenant do not alter Deleon Guerrero's status as an at-will employee.

Instead, she said, public policy and the implied covenant impose obligations on the employer with regard to how it should deal with employees, and failure to follow them may give rise to state law claims for wrongful termination or the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

However, the judge said, they do not generate new constitutionally protected property rights.

"Accordingly, the due process claim must be dismissed," she added.

On the conspiracy to violate civil rights claim, Manglona said nowhere does Deleon Guerrero's complaint suggest that she was terminated on account of race or other protected status.

Instead, Manglona said, the alleged "for cause" termination was motivated by discord between Deleon Guerrero and BOE members, which is insufficient.

Manglona said because Deleon Guerrero has failed to state a claim, the court need not reach whether defendants are entitled to immunity.

Last March 30, Manglona remanded to the Superior Court Deleon Guerrero's two claims—wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Deleon Guerrero is suing the BOE and its members for terminating her as the Education commissioner last October. She is demanding $350,000 in damages.

According to Deleon Guerrero, her termination was done in retaliation.

SNACK

From Page 1

flowers and greens.

According to Pertudu, although others doubted her vision for her booth, she just wanted to share what her snack bar has to offer. Terry said she didn't reserve a booth just to win the decorating competition, but considers the honor an added bonus.

Pertudo and her team intend to set up shop again at the 21st Taste of the Marianas. Pertudu's winning includes owning the title and an automatic free booth reservation for next year's Taste of the Marianas.

The second place winner was perennial winner D'Elegance, followed by Kanoa Resort Saipan, and finally Herman's Modern Bakery. Each winner will be given a significant discount on their booth reservation fee if they decide to participate in next year's Taste of the Marianas.

POT

From Page 1

Jim Rayphand gave comments on a personal capacity and not as the director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Speaking before the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations committee on Tuesday, Helmey said that S.B. 20-62 has the potential to create a new industry in the CNMI.

"If you legalize it, it would benefit the CNMI economically through the taxes that would come from it. Doing this will do many things, economically, medically, and socially. It covers a lot, creating a new industry," he said.

Doyle, meanwhile, said it would provide patients with access to a cheaper alternative to expensive medicines and can be grown in one's backyard.

"We actually have Dronabinol, a pharmaceutical-grade medicine that is pure [tetrahydrocannabinol] or the extract from the [cannabis] plant. That medicine is available for us and is no different in form and function from the actual marijuana plant. We tried it but, unless you have $3,000 a month to pay, you can't take the medicine."

It makes no sense, therefore, that marijuana, a medicinal plant, can get you into trouble, he said. "Pharmaceutical companies can charge you $3,000 a month to have access to a plant that you can grow in your own backyard but you could go to prison for 10 years."

Doyle said that states and other jurisdictions that have legalized marijuana have seen a significant drop in opioid deaths and methamphetamine use. "Every state that legalized marijuana—medicinal or recreational use—has seen a 30-percent across-the-board drop in opioid deaths. Meth users also dropped from 20 to 25 percent."

Borja said cannabis could not be compared to a drug or alcohol. "It is more than that; it's a medicine. If you were to sell anything that makes people better, it has to be organic, not synthetic."

"I truly believe that this would be beneficial. It is sad to see that it's taking us so long," he added.

Rayphand said legalizing marijuana use would have a big impact on the CNMI. "See the difference of paying $3,000 to something that you could grow in your own backyard."

The Senate, in their last session, passed S.B. 20-62—introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan). House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), in their last session on Tinian on May 22, told JGO chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) to prioritize the bill.

CUC

From Page 1

$11.04 more in their monthly billing.

In a notice last night, CUC said that it was notified about the increase in average world fuel prices by its supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the mean of platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first imposed the levelized energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

"WHO YOU ARE TOMORROW BEGINS WITH WHAT YOU DO TODAY."

Congratulations

Tinian High School

Class of 2018

From Tinian Mayor & Mrs. Joey P. San Nicolas

Hawaii volcanic haze lingers over Marianas

The National Weather Service in Guam advised yesterday that the volcanic smog, or vog, from the erupting Mount Kilauea in Hawaii continues to linger over the Marianas region.

The volcanic haze is expected to linger across the Marianas until today, Thursday.

Based on information compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the haze will likely decrease tomorrow, Friday, into the weekend as wetter weather moves in from the east.

"This haze is not expected to cause widespread health problems but if you have a respiratory health issue you should limit outdoor activities until the haze dissipates," the agency said in an advisory issued yesterday. "Listen for any advisories from local health agencies or the National Weather Service."

Unless the haze increases again, yesterday's statement was the last the agency will issue on this haze episode. If other major eruptions of Kilauea occur in coming weeks or months, statements will be issued as needed. It advised CNMI residents to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or to call the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single sideband radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(EOC)***

Experts: Coral bleaching also affects Marianas reefs

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Reefs in the CNMI, from Rota all the way up to the northern island of Uracas, have not been spared from that worldwide phenomenon called "coral bleaching," when coral reefs die and turn white.

Experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, who have been monitoring the health of local coral reefs, blamed warming ocean temperatures for this.

"Everyone is probably aware that the Earth and our oceans have been getting warmer. …Corals are living very near their temperature maximum so warmer oceans is bad news for corals," said Steve McKagan, a NOAA fisheries biologist, told students at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute last Tuesday.

Marine experts talk about the plight of CNMI corals reefs in the environmental class at Northern Marianas Trade Institute last Tuesday. BEA CABRERA

Coral bleaching happens when corals are stressed by changes in conditions such as temperature, light, or nutrients; they expel the symbiotic algae called zooxanthellae that live in their tissue, causing them to turn completely white. In the process, corals die.

Dr. Doug Fenner, a private consultant for NOAA, explained that the amazing thing about corals reefs "is that it's an animal but it's got little plants in it. Once the sunlight hits them, they make food, just like any tree. They also build a skeleton and that's what we usually call the hard stuff. Everything on Saipan is built on the rock, built by those tiny animals."

"If you see little brown dots on them, they are individual cells of algae …They help give color to them but that is just a side effect and they basically provide food and some leaks out into to coral polyp and so the coral polyp depends on it and that's where the trouble starts with hot water," he added.

With sea warming, the zooxnathellae, the symbiotic algae that lives inside the coral polyp, starts to produce things that the coral perceives as poisonous. The coral ejects them, turning white in the process. When the water becomes cooler, there is a chance of recovery but if it doesn't, the corals eventually die.

Saipan and the other Northern Islands were particularly badly hit by coral bleaching in 2013 and 2014, according to BECQ marine biologist and technical adviser Dr. Lyza Johnston.

She pointed out that bleaching events are a natural phenomenon as they happened in the past "but because of ocean warming, they are starting to happen more frequently and more severely than they ever have been before.

She said scientists saw the first major bleaching in the CNMI in 2013. She said coral reefs in the Saipan lagoon were hit particularly hard because the water is shallower.

They found out the next year, in 2014, that corals in the Northern Islands also got hit.

"There were a lot of spatial variation in bleaching throughout the island chain. So the lagoon on Saipan and Sarigan, Guguan, and Pagan had a lot of recent mortality and a lot of coral assemblages but they were all dead. In June of the same year, corals were still alive in Uracas and Maug but we started to see very severe bleaching events in the same islands after a month of going across the island chain," she added.

According to McKagan, the state of the corals in the Northern Islands shows that bleaching does not only occur in places where the are a lot of people.

"The islands Dr. Johnston mentioned are sites that don't have people. A lot of times we think we are going to do worse around Saipan and Guam where we have lots of people and stressors, sedatives, nutrients, and fishing pressures. But the real issue is thermal stress and it doesn't matter where you are, how many people are there, they can still hit you," he said.

Seas around the CNMI experienced the hottest it has ever been in 2015 since scientists started keeping track. The same thing happened in 2016 and 2017 again, "so the last three years were exceedingly hot for our oceans… Historically, there might be a bleaching event and there might be 10 years before we see another so the corals recover but it's happening so often that it's hard for the corals to recover now," he added.

McKagan said that BECQ samples about 10 to 15 sites around Saipan semi-annually.

It's possible for corals to recover but it takes a long time, according to Fenner. "They have 20 years and the hot temperature of water that is killing them."

The community is being encouraged to take part in the recovery period of the islands' corals as this is important because the CNMI is surrounded by corals.

"What you can do is go snorkel, spend time in the water, take advantage of the beautiful resources out there. There's a decent chance that 10 years from now, it's going to look very different so enjoy what you still have. … Support local initiatives like beach cleanups and, if you are certified diver, there are opportunities to help," McKagan said. "All of us can do better in handling our carbon footprint. Our island is small and if everybody starts to take action at home and at work, we can slow down this train."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-009-18

Date of Issuance:	**May 7, 2018**
Pre-proposal Conference:	**May 18, 2018 (2:00 p.m.)**
Questions & Clarifications Due Date	**May 25, 2018**
Proposal Due Date:	**May 31, 2018 (2:00 p.m.)**

TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR UNDERWATER INSPECTION, SURVEY & INVESTIGATION BAKER & CHARLIE DOCK, PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from engineering consulting firms interested in Underwater Inspection and Survey services to assist the Authority implementation of corrosion preventive maintenance and other related projects. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning May 07, 2018 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal to provide professional services for underwater inspection, survey and investigation (RFP-009-18). One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, May 31, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA *Date*
Acting Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DLNR-088 (A-C)
SUBMISSION/OPENINGDATE: JUNE 18, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE & INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS (A), GENERATOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION (B), & UNIT FOR THE KAGMAN WATER WELL PROJECT, SAIPAN (C) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **A MANDATORY SITE VISIT IS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 06, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE SUBSTATION IN KAGMAN.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHITIIBING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP NO.: RFP18-DPW-090 (A-B)
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2018 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (A) AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION (B)

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED A THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLES 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHITIIBING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Tinian High's Class of 2018 a trailblazing group

The Top 10 graduating seniors were Michelle De Castro Quichocho, Lisa Nicole Pimentel Clamor, Mariah Manuel Cruz, Nicole De Castro Quichocho, Kyle Borja Flores, Romeo Kedar Malicdem Shrestha, Kayziel Gayle Mahililum Mojica, Edric Marco Medina Hofschneider, Floicia Delos Reyes Manibusan, and Dylan Thomas Tiapong Fleming. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2018 graduating class of Tinian Junior/Senior High School ended their four-year stay in their school with yesterday's ceremony at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater.

Led by class valedictorian Michelle De Castro Quichocho, 45 high school seniors graduated in a ceremony witnessed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres. Attorney Kimberly King-Hinds was the keynote speaker.

Quichocho, who also received the CNMI State Board of Education Academic Excellence award, cited some of the accomplishments of the graduating class, telling her classmates that "we have made this year for the books."

She said that members of the school's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps' Unarmed Drill team won the overall crown in Golden Bear, California while also ending a 10-year drought in the Mock Trial Championship by placing second overall. Members of the senior class also ruled the Under-18 3x3 basketball tournament while seven of their classmates have enlisted in the U.S. military.

MICHELLE DE CASTRO QUICHOCHO
Valedictorian

LIZA NICOLE PIMENTEL CLAMOR
Salutatorian

Torres presented the Governor's Award to Quichocho, while the Board of Education, led by vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio, Herman T. Guerrero (Saipan), Florine Hofschneider (Tinian), and Herman Atalig (Rota) presented her with the BOE Academic Excellence Award.

Class salutatorian Liza Nicole Pimentel Clamor received the Commissioner's Award. It was presented to her by interim Education commissioner Glenn Muna, associate commissioner Jackie Quitugua, associate commissioner Eric Magofna, Early Head Start director Lathania Santos, Federal Program's officer Tim Thornburgh, and Marian Tudela of the Office of Accountability Research and Evaluation.

The BOE also presented student representative Mariah Manuel Cruz with a special recognition for her service as a member of the board. presented the award to Clamor.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's chief of staff, John Oliver Gonzales, gave the lieutenant governor's award to Kenya Jade Apolinar Barcinas, while Floicia Delos Reyes Manibusan received the Principal's Award from school principal Dionne Santos and vice principal Martian Diaz.

Nicole De Castro Quichocho, Kyle Borja Flores, Romeo Kedar Malicdem Shrestha, Kayziel Gayle Mahililum Mojica, Edric Medina Hofschneider, Manibusan, and Dylan Thomas Tiapong Fleming were the others in the Top 10 of the graduating class.

MARIANA NORTHERN ISLANDS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The NMI Tennis Association
wholeheartedly
thanks our sponsors
for their outstanding support of the 2018 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships. With players from Japan, Korea, USA, Australia, Taipei, Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand and the NMI competing, this event remains one of the pillars of sports tourism in our islands. Our hometown girl Carol Lee won both the girls singles and doubles, as well as Robbie Schorr, Sean Lee, Malika Miyawaki and Coume Kaga gaining ITF Junior World Ranking points. We congratulate our NMI players on their success.

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD IT&E · MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY · Tan Siu Lin Foundation · Hertz · PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE · AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI · CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

Managing Credit for Financing

Monday, June 4, 2018
8:30am—10:30am
Location: CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:
Jane Ray, Guam SBDC Business Advisor

Ms. Jane Ray received her Bachelor in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics from the University of Guam. She then received her Master in Accounting and Financial Management from the University of Maryland University College. Ray has over 10 years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting, and managing small businesses. She also has extensive lending background in handling a variety of consumer personal and mortgage loan requests, commercial loan requests for larger and small businesses on Guam and in the United States. She specialized in handling commercial loan requests through government guaranteed loan programs, such as USDA Business and Industrial program and U.S. Small Business Administration. She was previously awarded the Small Business Banker of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Ray held management positions including Assistant Relationship Manager at ANZ Guam, Inc., Business Relationship Officer and Loan Manager at Coast 360 Federal Credit Union. She was also certified as Credit Union Financial Counselor.

Obtaining bank financing can be a roadblock for startup business and existing business. Understanding and managing owner's personal credit are keys to success if financing is the only option available for your business. In this workshop, we will examine the basic facts of credit reporting and factors that affect credit score. It also covers several distinct areas which will assist individual business owners to read and resolve errors on credit report, tips on managing personal credit, and the basic requirement on the SBA guaranteed loan program. This workshop will pre-pare small business owners when financing is needed down the road.

Limited Seating. **Register now at: pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com**
For more information or to reserve your seats today, contact the CNMI SBDC at 670-664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Admin-istration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

New Medicare cards arriving in Hawaii, Pacific territories

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is mailing new Medicare cards to protect the safety and security of people with Medicare benefits.

The new Medicare cards no longer contain a person's Social Security number, but rather a unique, randomly-assigned Medicare number that protects the identities of people with Medicare, reduces fraud, and offers better safeguards of important health and financial information.

"Removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards is one of the many ways CMS is committed to putting patients first and improving the consumer healthcare experience," said Greg Dill, CMS regional administrator for Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. "This change not only protects Medicare patients from fraud, but also safeguards taxpayer dollars by making it harder for criminals to use Social Security numbers to falsely bill Medicare for care services and benefits that were never performed."

» CMS removes Social Security numbers, increasing fraud protection and consumer experience for millions of Americans

> *"New cards now mailing to AK, CA, HI, OR, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI"*

Work on this initiative was made possible by the enactment of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

CMS began mailing yesterday the new Medicare cards to people in Hawaii and the Pacific territories who currently have Medicare benefits. Additionally, Hawaii and territories residents who are new to Medicare started to receive their new Medicare cards in April along with others across the country when the mailing first began.

As soon as people receive their new Medicare card, they should safely and securely destroy their old Medicare card and keep their new Medicare number confidential.

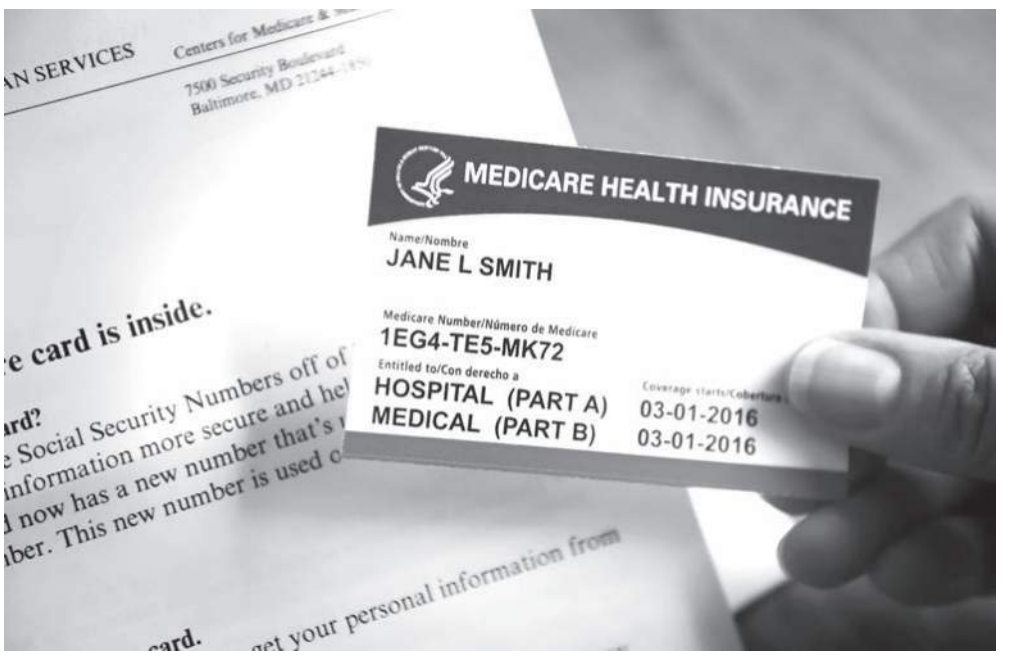
"Our current mailing strategy allows us to complete the mailings of new cards to all people with Medicare, both new and current enrollees, over the next year," the agency said in a news release.

The new Medicare card will not change any of the program benefits and services that eligible people enrolled in Medicare receive. People with Medicare and their caregivers can visit medicare.gov/newcard to find out when new Medicare cards will be mailed to their area. They can also sign up for email notifications about the new card mailing and check the status in their state.

Healthcare providers, suppliers, and people with Medicare will be able to use secure look-up tools that allow quick access to the new Medicare numbers when needed. There will be a 21-month transition period for healthcare providers and suppliers to use either the former Social Security-based Medicare number or the new Medicare number to ensure a seamless transition.

As the new Medicare cards are being mailed, people with Medicare should look out for scams and follow these tips:

- Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare number or other personal information so you can obtain your new Medicare card.
- Don't pay for your new Medicare card. It's free. If anyone calls or approaches you and says you need to pay for it, that's a scam.
- Guard your card. When you get your new card, safeguard it like you would health insurance or credit cards.
- Only give your new Medicare number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf. ***(PR)***



The new Medicare cards no longer contain a person's Social Security number, but rather a unique, randomly-assigned Medicare number that protects the identities of people with Medicare, reduces fraud, and offers better safeguards of important health and financial information. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

10 things to know about your new Medicare card

Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards between April 2018 – April 2019. Here are 10 things to know about your new Medicare card:

1. **Mailing takes time:** Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
2. **Destroy your old Medicare card:** Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
3. **Guard your card:** Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
4. **Your Medicare Number is unique:** Your card has a new number instead of your Social Security Number. This new number is unique to you. You can't pick or change the number that's assigned to you.
5. **Your new card is paper:** Paper cards are easier for many providers to use and copy, and they save taxpayers a lot of money. Plus, you can print your own replacement card if you need one!
6. **Keep your new card with you:** Carry your new card and show it to your health care providers when you need care.
7. **Your doctor knows it's coming:** Doctors, other health care facilities and providers will ask for your new Medicare card when you need care.
8. **You can find your number:** If you forget your new card, you, your doctor or other health care provider may be able to look up your Medicare Number online.
9. **Keep your Medicare Advantage Card:** If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card is your main card for Medicare – you should still keep and use it whenever you need care. However, you also may be asked to show your new Medicare card, so you should carry this card too.
10. **Help is available:** If you don't get your new Medicare card by **April 2019**, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, Braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit CMS.gov/about-cms/agency-information/aboutwebsite/cmsnondiscriminationnotice.html, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

CMS Product No. 12018
January 2018

Yap to celebrate friendship with Japan in festival

COLONIA, Yap—During a summit meeting between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia last fall, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed gratitude to FSM for consistently and strongly supporting his country in the international arena for many years and noted that 2018 would be the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. His desire to develop even stronger relations was met favorably by FSM President Peter Christian who replied that he too wished to further strengthen bilateral relations with Japan.

Yap, one of four states of the FSM, is now preparing to celebrate the 30th anniversary between the two island nations during its annual Yap Summer Festival that will take place at the Living History Museum in Colonia on June 15-16.

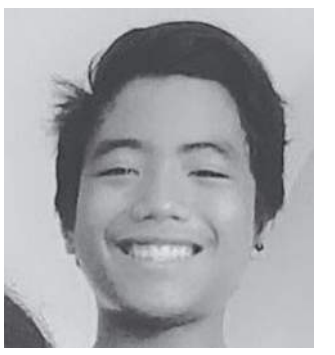
"We are very excited to be able to bring together the traditional dances, food, art, and culture of Yap and Japan to showcase our friendship," said Don Evans, general manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau. "Both cultures are not just unique but use distinct, artistic expressions that represent and honor their ways of life," he added. "It will be an exciting two days to be in Yap!"

FSM Ambassador to Japan John Fritz and FSM Honorary Consul-General to Hokkaido Nobutsugi Kyuribayashi will be among the honored guests.

The formal program will include addresses by local and visiting dignitaries; entertainment by students from Yap Catholic High School; and, traditional Yapese and Japanese dance performances. Participating in the event will also be local members of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, who plan to host a sushi stand, a Japanese treat that is found on every menu in Yap. Other student groups and local organizations are being invited to sell local food, handicrafts, and other products in the festival's marketplace.

For more information about the festival or to rent a booth, stop by the Yap Visitors Bureau during normal business hours, call (691) 350-2298 or go to www.visityap.com. ***(PR)***

Dancers perform the Yap Bamboo Dance. JOYCE MCCLURE



GREAT JOB!

Congratulations to Zachary Joe Arriola Mendiola on your 8th grade promotion from Chacha OceanView Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Q&A: American Samoans aren't actually US citizens. Does that violate the Constitution?

By ANN M. SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

American Samoa honors children with an annual holiday called White Sunday. CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

They are called American Samoans. But many residents of the U.S. territory—an archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean—don't feel American. That's because people born in American Samoa are not U.S. citizens unless one of their parents is a citizen.

A lawsuit filed in Utah last month against the State Department and former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson seeks to change the American Samoans' status from noncitizen U.S. nationals to citizens.

The State Department's policy and practice of refusing to recognize birthright citizenship of people born in American Samoa "violates the Fourteenth Amendment," according to the lawsuit. This article of the U.S. Constitution states that all people born in the U.S. "and subject to the jurisdiction thereof," are citizens.

"That is not dependent on congressional grace," said Neil Weare, the attorney leading the suit and president of Equally American, a nonprofit group that advocates for equality and civil rights for Americans living in U.S. territories.

Weare said the U.S. government had given American Samoans "a badge of inferiority" that diminishes their standing in their communities and in the nation as a whole.

"This continuation of a second-class or kind of caste system in the United States today is completely at odds with the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment," he said.

Officials at the State Department declined to comment because the case was ongoing.

Here's some clarification on the status of American Samoans:

Q: Why is it that people born in other U.S. territories are citizens at birth but American Samoans are not?

A: "It's kind of a piling-on of circumstances that have led to American Samoa being the odd island out," said Sam Erman, an expert in constitutional law, legal history and the Supreme Court at USC.

Initially, no U.S. territorial island residents received citizenship, Erman said. A series of Supreme Court opinions in the early 1900s, known as the "Insular Cases," established different rules for "incorporated territories" such as Arizona and New Mexico, which were considered to be en route to becoming U.S. states, and for "unincorporated territories," which were not. There are now five inhabited unincorporated territories—Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The unincorporated territories were never expected to have a shot at statehood or citizenship, until Congress decided to add them on a case-by-case basis over the years, Erman said.

The change in status has not happened for American Samoa, a cluster of islands some 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii with a population of about 55,600 people. American Samoa leadership includes a governor and a nonvoting delegate to Congress. A U.S. territory since 1900, American Samoa is different from Samoa, a nearby independent nation.

"In order to get citizenship you need to have the sense among the U.S. Congress that the population on the island wants the citizenship and you have to have a U.S. Congress willing to give the citizenship," Erman said. "Those haven't aligned yet for American Samoa."

Q: Why do some American Samoans feel that as U.S. nationals they have second-class status?

A: American Samoans are not allowed to vote in federal, state or local elections and can't run for elected office, serve on a jury or apply for certain government jobs that require the candidates to be U.S. citizens.

Noncitizen nationals are also treated less favorably when it comes to sponsoring foreign relatives for immigrant visas, the lawsuit says. A disclaimer on their passports announces that "the bearer is a United States national and not a United States citizen," which many American Samoans find insulting because it makes them feel like they are foreigners.

Like other eligible permanent residents, American Samoans can apply to become citizens, but the process is long and costly—$725, not counting attorney fees. And acquiring citizenship is not guaranteed because although American Samoans are considered to be American nationals, "they are treated the same as foreign nationals for most aspects of the naturalization process," according to the complaint.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of John Fitisemanu, Pale Tuli, Rosavita Tuli and the Southern Utah Pacific Islander Coalition, a nonprofit organization that advocates for greater empowerment of the Pacific Islander community in Southern Utah.

Fitisemanu, 53, a healthcare industry worker and the suit's lead plaintiff, said in court filings that the label of "noncitizen national" caused him "emotional anguish." He said he was unable to vote in Utah because of his status and lamented being subjected to negative comments "from others questioning my 'choice' not to vote."

A husband and father of three children, Fitisemanu was born in Tafuna, a village on the east coast of American Samoa's Tutuila Island. He moved to Hawaii during high school and has resided in Utah since 2000.

Tuli, 24, who works as a garbage and recycling collector for a private contractor, was born in the American Samoa capital of Pago Pago and moved to Utah in 2014. He said in court filings that being a noncitizen had prevented him from pursuing a career as a police officer.

Tuli, who is married to fellow plaintiff Rosavita Tuli, regrets not being able to sponsor his aging parents to relocate to the U.S.; noncitizen nationals are not allowed to apply for immigration visas for their parents.

None of the three individual plaintiffs had applied to be naturalized as U.S. citizens, Weare said.

Q: How connected is American Samoa to the U.S. mainland?

A: The U.S. Navy administered American Samoa for its first 51 years as a U.S. territory, giving it limited self-governance, according to the lawsuit. In 1967, the U.S. approved the Constitution of American Samoa. In 1977, after agitating, the territory got its first elected governor, according to the American Samoa government website. In 1981 American Samoans elected their first nonvoting delegate to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The territory is home to numerous federal agency offices, the education system has a curriculum that reflects U.S. educational standards, and American Samoans have served in the U.S. military since first becoming part of the U.S., with high enlistment rates, according to the lawsuit.

"Everyone who was born (in American Samoa) after 1900 was born under the U.S. flag owing allegiance to the United States," said Charles Alailima, an American Samoan attorney with offices in American Samoa and the Seattle area. "They had no allegiance to any other place. They were born with the obligation and loyalty to the United States."

Alailima was born in American Samoa but is a U.S. citizen because his mother was a U.S. citizen. The 2010 U.S. census reported 109,637 American Samoans in the United States, or 184,440 when people with partial American Samoan ancestry were included.

People of American Samoan heritage in the public eye include Tulsi Gabbard, who has represented Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District since 2013; Siala-Mou Siliga, also known as Mighty Mo—a heavyweight boxer, kickboxer and mixed martial arts expert; and actor Al Harrington, best known for his role as Detective Ben Kokua on the original "Hawaii Five-O" on CBS.

Q: Do most American Samoans want to be U.S. citizens?

A: It depends on who you ask.

"American Samoans are not all of one mind on this," said Alailima. "Some feel they have been given a special status by the United States. Some people feel that we're special because we're nationals, not knowing the history of why the U.S. made this distinction."

American Samoa has never held a formal plebiscite on either citizenship or political status.

The American Samoan government opposed a lawsuit on citizenship that Weare filed in 2012, stating in court filings that a ruling in favor of citizenship could have "unintended and harmful effects" on American Samoans' culture, which could be jeopardized if subjected to "heightened scrutiny" under the 14th Amendment.

For example, the American Samoan communal land tenure system prevents the transfer of ownership of land to people who are not of American Samoan heritage. Such rules could be viewed as discriminatory under U.S. law.

In 2016, the Supreme Court refused to review a U.S. appeals court ruling in that lawsuit that said it was up to Congress to change the legal status of American Samoans.

The office of American Samoa Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga did not respond to an emailed request for comment on the latest lawsuit and the government's position on the citizenship issue.

Weare said he was optimistic that the Utah case would be successful.

Over the last two years he has heard from more than 700 American Samoans living throughout the 50 states and its territories who wanted to be recognized as citizens "without having to go through the hoops and barriers of the naturalization process," he said.

And after the 2016 presidential election there was also a lot of interest among American Samoans living in the U.S. who were frustrated over being denied the vote, and "they wanted to do something about that," Weare said.

The fact that American Samoans are not U.S. citizens, he said, is "something that I think most Americans are surprised to learn."

Ofu Lagoon in the National Park of American Samoa, part of the U.S. National Park System. CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 107

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Are you nervous about going out into the world?
It has to be safer than high school!
MARGULIES
©2018 NEWSDAY/amNEW YORK
www.jimmymargulies.com

Trump travel ban devastates families

By TASMIHA KHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

My neighbor, Qais, came to the United States from Yemen in the 1970s. With less than $100 in his wallet, he set out to create a better future for his family. Accustomed to warfare and violence, Qais sought peace and freedom from chaos. Little did he know that his family would be separated due to policies set forth by the Trump administration in 2017.

Qais lives in the suburbs of Chicago with this wife and four children along with two grandchildren, Noha and Saleh, who have parents in Yemen. (All names are pseudonyms, to protect the family.) The parents have been stuck in Yemen since March 2017, unable to return due to the new travel restrictions.

The father's hands are coarse from years of working in a steel factory. The mother was a farmer in Yemen who brought her gardening skills to the states, where she enjoyed growing her own food. All that they want is to be reunited with their family. They are devastated to be separated from their loved ones.

Noha and Saleh, ages 9 and 11, miss their mother's warm kisses and father's bear hugs. It is a terrible thing that President Donald Trump has done, putting families like these under such distress.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Trump vs. Hawaii, a case involving the third iteration of Trump's Muslim travel ban. While the ban ostensibly excludes nationals from eight countries for security reasons, it is clearly intended to exclude Muslims. Sadly, the court is seen as likely to uphold the ban when it issues its decision, expected by late June.

Trump, in his speeches and tweets, has done nothing to disavow his Islamophobia; instead, he has embraced it. His travel ban is merely another move toward what Trump called for as a candidate—a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslims entering the United States. Several courts have ruled that Trump's statements made clear his intention to discriminate based on religion.

And so, for now, Qais waits. Noha and Saleh wait. Their friends and neighbors wait. We as a nation wait, hoping things will turn out well in the end.

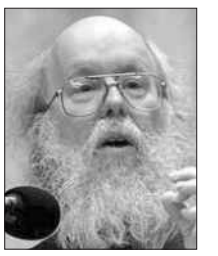
Our country stands for religious freedom for all. We should feel comfortable to adhere to the religion we choose to and engage in religious practices that do not harm anyone. Being a Muslim should not be a crime in what is supposed to be the "Land of the free," regardless of where you were born.

No matter what the Supreme Court rules, penalizing a whole group of people simply based on their race, religion, or ethnicity is antithetical to American values. After all, we are weaker as a nation when we let fear be our guide. United we stand, divided we fall.

Tasmiha Khan is pursuing her masters in social impact at Claremont Lincoln University while also working with Brighter Dawns, a nonprofit aimed at improving lives for the impoverished.

Am I on the TSA's secret list?

By JIM BOVARD
Los Angeles Times



Jim Bovard is the author of numerous books, including Attention Deficit Democracy *and* Lost Rights.

"I need a witness!" exclaimed the security screener at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Because I had forgotten to remove my belt before going through a scanner, he explained, I must undergo an "enhanced patdown." I told him that if he jammed his hand into my groin, I'd file a formal complaint. So he summoned his supervisor to keep an eye on the proceedings.

I thought of this exchange when the New York Times revealed that the Transportation Security Administration has created a secret watchlist for troublesome passengers. The TSA justified the list by saying that its screeners were assaulted 34 times last year, but did not release any details about the alleged assaults.

The TSA's official definition of troublemaking goes well beyond punching its officers. According to a confidential memo, any behavior that is "offensive and without legal justification" can land a traveler on the list, as can any "challenges to the safe and effective completion of screening." Anyone who has ever "loitered" near a checkpoint could also make the list. So could any woman who pushes a screener's hands away from her breasts.

The memo would be more accurate if it stated that anyone who fails to unquestioningly submit to all the TSA's demands would be found guilty of insubordination.

As an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, Hugh Handeyside, told the Washington Post, the policy gives the agency wide latitude to "blacklist people arbitrarily and essentially punish them for asserting their rights." Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.) expressed similar worry. "I am concerned about the civil-liberty implications of such a list," she said.

The watchlist would seem less perilous if the TSA were not one of most incompetent agencies on Earth. After a series of undercover tests at multiple airports across the country, the Department of Homeland Security concluded last year that TSA officers and equipment had failed to detect mock threats roughly 80 percent of the time. An earlier DHS investigation found the TSA utterly unable to detect weapons, fake explosives and other contraband, regardless of how extensive its pat-downs were.

According to the TSA, travelers can take consolation in the certainty that its agents will never assault them. But Americans have filed thousands of complaints that suggest otherwise, claiming screeners used excessive force or inappropriately touched them. How many have been fired as a result? It's hard to say: When I asked the TSA, they told me to file a Freedom of Information Act request.

One ongoing court case is show-casing the TSA's prerogatives. Airplane captain James Linlor was traveling through Dulles Airport in 2016 when he suffered a brutal patdown that left him requiring surgery. A TSA video shows that the patdown was proceeding normally, if somewhat aggressively, until the TSA agent, without warning, administered what appeared to be a karate chop to the captain's testicles.

Linlor sued, claiming that the TSA violated his rights with an unconstitutional and unreasonable search. In a hearing last year, a lawyer for the Department of Justice argued that there's no law "establishing a specific degree of permissible intrusiveness of a security screening pat down," and that, since there's no law, Americans should have no legal recourse. Federal Judge James Cacheris scoffed at the government's "oratorical calisthenics." The case is before an appeals court.

The TSA has a long history of intimidation. In 2002, it created a system of fines to penalize travelers with bad attitudes, charging up to $1,500 for any alleged "nonphysical interference." This included any "situation that in any way would interfere with the screener and his or her ability to continue to work or interfere with their ability to do their jobs," according to a spokeswoman. The TSA failed to specify how much groveling was necessary and eventually abandoned the regime of fines.

If I have not yet made the TSA watchlist, it's not for a lack of trying. The agency's former chief, John Pistole, once claimed a 2014 article I wrote was "misleading, inaccurate and unfairly disparages the dedicated (TSA) workforce." The following year, after I endured a patdown in Portland, Ore., that nearly turned my private parts into a pancake, I raised hell in USA Today.

I filed a complaint after the Reagan airport incident, in part because the TSA confiscated a cigar cutter—even though its website explicitly states that cigar cutters are permitted in carry-on luggage. Did TSA screeners fear I would break into the cockpit and circumcise the pilot?

The TSA's latest anti-privacy charade is yet more evidence that the agency should be done away with. After pointlessly groping countless Americans, the TSA has no excuse for groping more.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How I would've made my 40s a happier decade of my life

By JONATHAN RAUCH
Los Angeles Times

Jonathan Rauch, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, is the author of The Happiness Curve: Why Life Gets Better After 50.

After struggling to understand myself in my 20s and to establish myself in my 30s, I finally hit my stride in my 40s. My health was vibrant and I had a successful career in journalism, plenty of money, wonderful friends and a loving, stable relationship.

It was the unhappiest decade of my life.

Today I know why: Recent research in economics, psychology and neuroscience shows that aging has an independent effect on life satisfaction, separate from factors such as health, wealth and other life circumstances. In other words, time is not an emotionally neutral backdrop. Instead, its effect on happiness is U-shaped: Other things being equal, people's life satisfaction tends to decline from their early 20s until midlife, then turns around at about age 50.

Armed with this knowledge, I often wish I could go back and warn the pre-40 me of what was coming. I first started to notice the onset of nagging dissatisfaction around my 40th birthday; I figured it would pass. But counting my blessings, as I often did, only deepened my funk. As my 40s went on, the perplexing feelings of restlessness and regret deepened. At 45, I attained the highest prize in my profession, yet not even that success hushed the inner critics saying I had wasted my life. By my late 40s, I painfully concluded that dissatisfaction and ingratitude were my new normal.

And then, around age 50, I noticed a change. The restlessness receded; the inner critics grew less strident. It was subtle at first, then unmistakable—and, as my 50s unfolded, satisfaction and gratitude returned.

What I have learned since then is that mine was a textbook case. Midlife slumps manifest in countries and cultures all over the world, and a version has turned up even in chimps and orangutans. It seems to be an emotional reboot that shifts our goals and values away from achievement and social competition and toward investing more in community and interpersonal connection. In other words, it is a period of emotional and social transition—akin, in that respect, to adolescence, though without the immaturity and pimples.

In another respect, however the two life stages are very different. Parents, schools and society all grasp that adolescence is an often turbulent time, and so they provide all kinds of buffers and supports to help kids through it. Teens may struggle with adjustment, but they know they are not abnormal, and they are not left to cope on their own.

By contrast, there was no accurate social template for what I experienced. The standard frame for unhappiness in your 40s is a disruptive, irresponsible "midlife crisis." But what I felt—and what most people feel—was grinding, but gradual. It was the opposite of a crisis.

The fact that I was a high achiever made matters worse. To motivate us to seek status and success, our brains lead us to expect that worldly achievement will bring emotional fulfillment. In a pattern known as the "hedonic treadmill," however, each increment of status leads us to crave yet more. The perverse result is that people who are objectively more successful often feel subjectively more disappointed. To me, this felt like an emotional ambush.

I also made some common mistakes, starting with what scholars call attribution error. Struggling to find a reason for my unhappiness, I blamed my career. Fortunately, I didn't act on fantasies of quitting my job and starting over. Abandoning my career would have been a costly move that solved nothing.

Meanwhile, however, I began to be alarmed about my feelings of unhappiness, launching myself into a self-recriminatory cycle that Hannes Schwandt, the economist who first described it, calls a negative-feedback effect. "Since you're disappointed," he says, "your life satisfaction decreases and you feel even worse about that. You're in a downward spiral." So pronounced is this effect that it can drive midlife malaise all on its own. In other words, midlife slump can be literally about nothing, amplifying itself in a kind of emotional echo-chamber.

Because I felt something had gone wrong with me, I made a third mistake: I treated my malaise as a shameful secret. I didn't want to be told I needed medication, to be teased about having a midlife crisis, or to reveal my vulnerability and ingratitude. I didn't even tell my husband how I felt. And so misattribution, pessimism, and isolation interlocked and reinforced one another.

So if I could rerun the tape, knowing what I know now, what would I do?

First, I would warn myself: Midlife springs emotional ambushes. But just knowing that fact reduces their capacity to instill alarm and pessimism.

Second, I would go easier on myself. I would regard my 40s slump as a normal, if unpleasant, stage of adult development, and try not to beat up on myself for it.

Third, I would let time do more of the work. Instead of trying to talk myself out of dissatisfaction, I would cultivate patience and acceptance. For most people, the slump not only ends but leads to a surprising rebirth of contentment in late adulthood.

Fourth, I would do a lot more reaching out to other people. Connecting with others cracks open the echo chamber; it reduces isolation and shame and helps preserve a level-headed outlook.

From my deep dive into the research of midlife and from my own passage around the U-turn, the main thing I have learned is the importance of others. Midlife is a time of mastery and accomplishment, but also of unexpected vulnerability and need. It is not a voyage we should attempt on our own.

Care is in short supply. Ask nurses

By CHRISTIE WATSON
Los Angeles Times

Christie Watson, a nurse for 20 years, is also a novelist.

Betty was lying on a gurney in a hospital corridor. She was elderly, frail and shivering with cold. More than that, she was frightened and completely alone.

I took her temperature—a low temperature being a sign of sepsis in the elderly—but it wasn't extreme. She'd been admitted with chest pain and she clutched her chest, starfishing her hand. Betty's heart wasn't diseased but it was broken nonetheless: her husband had died a few weeks earlier of a heart attack. I suspect she hadn't been eating and was without home heating.

I didn't do anything medical for Betty, though increasingly nursing requires such expertise: Nurses are cheap doctors. I carefully tucked a blanket around her. Her skin was paper-thin and she had bruises at different stages patterning her arms like late summer roses. I found her a sandwich, made her a cup of tea and held her hand as she told me about her husband, Stan. How they danced. What a privilege to hold a person's hand at their most defenseless and extreme moments of life. To be a nurse.

Yet nursing remains the most undervalued of all professions. If how a society treats its most vulnerable is a measure of its humanity, then any nurse will tell you that humanity is in trouble.

It seems that in both Britain and the United States, care has become a dirty word. Compassion and kindness are just slogans to earn likes on Instagram, not career goals. Instead, our cultures promote isolationism and revere narcissism. We have abandoned empathy and community along with it.

While working as a resuscitation nurse, I was called to the hospital cafe where a man was in cardiac arrest. Visitors and patients around us continued drinking their tea; some recorded the event on their phones. Another day, a woman, clearly homeless, was lying in the entrance to the hospital bleeding and crying. People—hospital staff included—stepped around her.

PIXABAY
Nursing remains the most undervalued of all professions.

A clear symptom of the problem is how the nursing profession itself is in crisis. The population is aging and we need more and more nurses, but applications are down. People are leaving the profession and retiring faster than they can be replaced. Even if we could recruit enough younger people—people not expecting an executive salary for a first job, people who are willing to deal with the blood and bones of us—a new nurse cannot replace one with 40 years' experience.

America has 3 million nurses. That is not enough. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there will be more than 1 million vacancies for registered nurses by 2024. This is twice as bad as the worst previous nursing shortage. If there is no national and international strategy to build a workforce of nurses, we will witness—very soon—crippled healthcare systems across the world.

Betty, after a while, stopped shivering so much. She sat up straighter as she held my hand. She thanked me and said I had saved her life. Of course, I had done no such thing, but I had given her something important: dignity, peace, care. What greater gift is there?

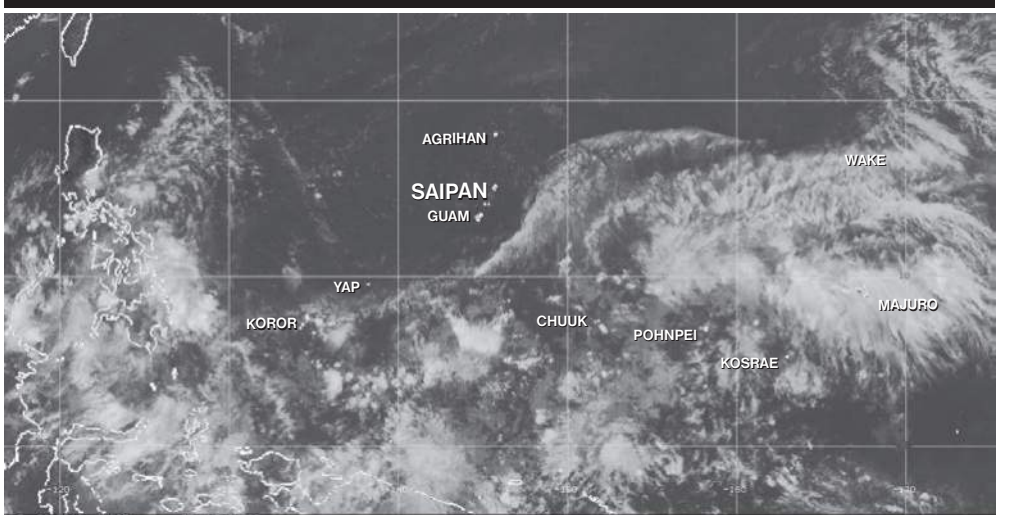
Hospitals are full of patients like Betty. Any one of us might be like her one day, dependent on receiving care from a stranger. Or, we will nurse a loved one. And at that time, we will understand that the only things that matter in the end are the qualities that unite humanity, ones that are almost but not quite forgotten: compassion and kindness.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:43 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A relatively dry weather pattern will persist through Thursday night. An upper-level low will pass across the Marianas today and then be located to the west of the area Thursday and Friday. While this would usually equal a chance of thunderstorms, deep layer moisture is not too high and this will limit the chance of any thunderstorms. Satellite and lightning imagery over the last day also did not show any thunderstorm activity that was associated with the upper level features. This quiet weather pattern will end by Friday night as a wet weekend is expected. Models still have a different opinion on the exact details of what will transpire...but agree on the results. The Volcanic Haze has decreased slightly across the Marianas this morning, but is still visibly noticeable. Expect this haze to persist at least through the day. Visible Satellite imagery does show the plume of volcanic haze extending from Hawaii to south of Wake Island.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	100° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
London	Thunderstorm	73° / 59°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorm	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	82° / 78°
Miami	Thunderstorm	82° / 76°
New York	Showers	67° / 63°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79° / 61°
Paris	Thunderstorm	75° / 61°
Busan	Sunny	75° / 63°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	82° / 64°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
San Francisco	Windy	58° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	88° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 63°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.13
7:44 AM	LOW TIDE	1.83
3:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.26
10:05 PM	LOW TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:54 AM	8:06 PM
Friday	-	7:41 AM	8:55 PM
Saturday	-	8:30 AM	9:43 PM
Sunday	-	9:19 AM	10:28 PM
Monday	-	10:09 AM	11:11 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Another euro crisis? Italian chaos reawakens concerns

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Italy's political turmoil has sent a wave of concern through the 19-nation eurozone that the country could be heading toward a new financial crisis—and even, in the worst case, out of the euro currency.

One big reason for the worry: the firewalls the eurozone built to prevent a rerun of its 2010-2012 debt crisis largely depend on countries being willing to go along with the currency bloc's financial rules.

And that's the last thing Italy's populist parties say they want to do.

Bond markets shuddered Tuesday, sending the yield on Italy's two-year bonds sharply higher—a sign investors think the bonds have suddenly become riskier investments. The two-year yield more than doubled, from under 1 percent to 2.2 percent.

That's a huge jump for one day, and brought back bad memories of 2011, when skyrocketing government borrowing costs threatened to break up the euro and helped drive then-Premier Silvio Berlusconi from office.

That crisis was calmed in large part by the European Central Bank and the now famous promise by its president, Mario Draghi, to do "whatever it takes" to save the euro. In practical terms, the bank in 2012 proposed to step in and support countries facing extreme borrowing costs by buying their government bonds.

The ECB, however, reminded everyone Tuesday that such help would come with strings attached, like controls on government spending.

"The rules are very clear on this," the ECB's vice president, Vitor Constancio, said in an interview published online Tuesday by Der Spiegel magazine. "Italy knows the rules. They should perhaps take another close look at them."

Spending controls imposed by the European Union are the kind of external oversight that Italy's populist politicians have criticized and that prompted political rebellion in bailed-out Greece.

Italy's populist 5-Star Movement and the anti-immigration League have criticized European Union restrictions on annual government borrowing and on the overall size of a country's debt pile. Italy has the heaviest debt load in the eurozone outside Greece, worth 132 percent of annual economic output. The 5-Star and League have proposed tax cuts and spending plans, like a basic guaranteed income for the poor, that would risk breaching those rules.

That means that avoiding a new euro crisis largely hinges on the hope that Italy's populist politicians don't mean what they say and won't engage in budget-busting spending if they win a new election, expected as soon as September.

For sure, the eurozone is in a much better place than it was in 2010-2012, making it more resistant to financial trouble.

Deficits are lower, economic growth is stronger, and more people have jobs. Borrowing costs for Italy, as for other eurozone countries, are so low that it would take a much more drastic increase to endanger the Italian government's ability to borrow and repay its bonds as they come due. In particular, the European Central Bank's monetary stimulus, under which it buys government bonds, has driven governments' borrow rates to very low levels across the eurozone.

The yield on Italy's 10-year bond rose by about 0.4 percentage point to 3.1 percent. While that's a four-year high, it's still well below the 7 percent rate that precipitated Italy's crisis in 2011.

Yet a 5 Star-League government might double down on anti-euro rhetoric and make the next Italian election a referendum on the euro. And if they win and carry through on policies that worsen Italy's debt, investors might take fright and demand much higher rates to lend to the country.

Trader Peter Tuchman works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, May 29, 2018. AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US companies uneasy about Trump threat but hope for progress

BEIJING (AP)—A U.S. business group says American companies in China are uneasy about Washington's threat of export and investment controls in a trade dispute with Beijing but see them as a possible way to achieve fairer operating conditions. William Zarit, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, said Wednesday that companies hope Beijing can be persuaded to ease curbs on investment and business activity. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is due in Beijing on Saturday after the White House renewed its threat of 25 percent tariffs on $50 billion of Chinese goods. Washington proposed curbs on Chinese investment and purchases of high-tech goods. Zarit said companies don't favor investment and export restrictions but want equal treatment "and this seems to be one of the ways to do that."

Budget airline AirAsia denies paying bribes for India slots

NEW DELHI (AP)—AirAsia India Ltd., the Indian arm of regional budget airline AirAsia, has denied allegations it engaged in corruption, saying it was cooperating with an investigation into suspicions that it paid bribes to get government approvals. Malaysia-based AirAsia chief Tony Fernandes, his deputy Bo Lingam and others were named in a complaint filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Press Trust of India news agency reported late Tuesday. The investigation centers on allegations that AirAsia paid bribes through a "sham contract" with a Singapore-based company to get government approvals to launch its India operation. India, with its rapidly growing middle class eager to travel, was a key business target for AirAsia, which dominates budget air transport in many Asian countries. AirAsia India official Shuva Mandal said in a statement that the carrier was "cooperating with all regulators and agencies to present the correct facts." Indian investigators registered the case Tuesday but formal charges can only be ordered by a court.

Tesla in Autopilot mode crashes into California police car

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a Tesla sedan in Autopilot mode has crashed into a parked police cruiser in Southern California. Police Sgt. Jim Cota says the officer was not in the cruiser during the crash Tuesday in Laguna Beach. He says the Tesla driver suffered minor injuries. The police SUV ended up with its two passenger-side wheels on a sidewalk. Tesla's semi-autonomous Autopilot mode has come under scrutiny following other recent crashes. The carmaker says the function is not designed to avoid a collision and warns drivers not to rely on it entirely.

Not so easy: Trump's trade agenda hits stumbling blocks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's hard-line views on trade, a staple of his message long before he entered politics, are beginning to collide with the cold realities of global geopolitics.

Trade talks on China and the North American Free Trade Agreement have hit stumbling blocks, posing a challenge for a president who vowed to make trade deals more equitable for the United States during his 2016 campaign and who famously tweeted that trade wars are "easy to win."

Trump's trade agenda—at least lately—has not been so easy.

Trump's administration announced plans Tuesday to slap $50 billion worth of tariffs on Chinese technology while taking steps to impose new investment restrictions and export controls, aimed at pushing China to remove trade barriers that make it difficult for U.S. companies to do business in China.

The new action came after the administration said earlier this month that it had suspended plans to impose $150 billion in tariffs for now and the president tweeted last week that a "different structure" would be needed in the trade talks involving the world's two largest economies.

The president has bemoaned the massive U.S. trade deficit with China—$337 billion last year—as evidence that Beijing has been complicit in abusive trading practices and outsmarted his predecessors.

Pointing to a pause in the trade dispute, the administration had pointed to China's plans to "significantly increase" its purchases of U.S. goods and services and make "meaningful increases" in U.S. exports of agriculture and energy products. Financial markets, wary of a calamitous trade war, were relieved.

But Beijing did not agree to any specific dollar amounts, despite the Trump administration's push to lower the U.S. trade deficit by at least $200 billion. And doubts remain about whether China will address allegations the Chinese engage in cybertheft of trade secrets, force U.S. companies to transfer some of their technology in exchange for market access or back away from its China 2025 plan to dominate emerging technologies.

Separately, on Friday, the U.S. reached a deal on ZTE Corp. that will allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to remain in business. Under the deal, ZTE will oust its management team, hire American compliance offers and pay a fine—on top of the $1 billion it's already paid for selling equipment to North Korea and Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. In return, the U.S. Commerce Department will lift a seven-year ban on ZTE buying components from U.S. companies. The ban, imposed this month, threatened to put ZTE out of business.

Trump said earlier that a resolution would help U.S. firms that supply ZTE with components, but members of Congress, including several Republicans, warned that the U.S. is being too lenient on a company that has violated U.S. sanctions.

"ZTE presents a national security threat to the United States—and nothing in this reported deal addresses that fundamental fact," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat. "If President Trump won't put our security before Chinese jobs, Congress will act on a bipartisan basis to stop him."

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM • SUNDAY 11AM TO 6PM

$249.95 FRIGIDAIRE 4.5 CU.FT. REFRIGERATOR

$79.95 CRYSTAL-HAMILTON BEACH 0.7 CU.FT. MICROWAVE

BRENTWOOD STAINLESS STEEL PANINI PRESS $29.95

4 SEASON-PEDRINI PRO ALUMINUM 12" FRY PAN $12.95

BRENTWOOD MULTI PRO BLENDER $34.95

CRYSTAL- OSTER 8 SPEED 450W GLASS JAR BLENDER $49.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 88 PIECE PLASTIC FOOD STORAGE $15.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 3 PCS SWIVEL BAR STOOL SET $129.95

ESSENTIAL HOME 3 PC BOULDER BISTRO SET $159.95

$119.95 HOME SMART SOFA BED

OPEN SUNDAYS 11AM-6PM

BRENTWOOD KZ 3 SPEED OSCILATING TOWER FAN $35.95

$69.95 CONTICO XL BASE UTILITY CABINET 2 SHELF

ESSENTIAL HOME CLOTH ROUND LAUNDRY HAMPER W/ROPE HANDLE $14.95

NWT AIR MATTRESS QUEEN SIZE $19.95

HONGMA SQUARE TABLE $29.95

HONGMA 5 FOOT TABLE $37.95

HONGMA 6 FOOT IN HALF TABLE $39.95

$95.95 COOLER RAPID RIDER X4 ISLAND

DEAL OF THE WEEK

OSTER DIGITAL EXTRA LARGE CONVECTION COUNTERTOP OVEN $69.95

NORTHWEST TERRITORY LIGHTWEIGHT SPORTS CHAIR $11.95

$149.95 MAX AP CANOPY

$10.95 BBQ GRILL 12" PAN WITH FOLDABLE HANDLE

$149.95 MEGA MASTER 22.5 CHARCOAL KETTLE GRILL

$119.95 PRICE ZONE-GAS ONE HIGH PRESSURE THREE BURNER

ESSENTIAL HOME FABRIC (BOXED) 3 DRAWER SHELF $39.95

4 SEASON STERLITE 12.3 GAL WASTE BASKET $23.95

4 SEASON RUBBERMAID 26GAL BROWN TRASHCAN $19.95

RC-US TRAVELLER 24" UPRIGHT SUITCASE $29.95

WEIDER 365 LB VINYL STYLE $139.95

$30.95 CHAMPION 50 LB DOG FOOD

$139.95 CRAFTSMAN 220 PCS MECHANIC TOOL SET

$14.95 X SHOT PRESSURE JET WATER GUNS

H20 GO DINOSAURUS POOL $19.95

$22.95 H20 GO BLUE RECTANGULAR POOL

BESTWAY WHALE/CLOWN FISH RIDER $8.95

INTEX ULTRA LOUNGE CHAIR WITH OTTOMAN $29.95

LITTLE TIKES GARDEN CHAIR $8.95

SOMERSET WOODEN SWING SET $599.95

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Nation

Both sides preparing as if US-NKorea summit will happen

AP
People watch a TV screen showing images of U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rapid-fire diplomacy played out on two continents in advance of an "expected" summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, the strengthening resolve coming after a series of high-risk, high-reward gambits by the two leaders.

Officials wouldn't say that the June 12 Singapore summit was back on, but preparations on both sides of the Pacific proceeded as if it were. Two weeks of hard-nosed negotiating, including a communications blackout by the North and a public cancellation by the U.S., appeared to be paying off as the two sides engaged in their most substantive talks to date about the meeting.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that he had a "great team" working on the summit, confirming that top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol was headed to New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In addition, teams of U.S. officials have arrived at the Korean demilitarized zone and in Singapore to prepare for the meeting.

"Solid response to my letter, thank you!" tweeted Trump. He announced he had decided to "terminate" the summit last week in an open letter to Kim that stressed American military might, but also left the door cracked for future communication. White House officials characterized the letter as a negotiating tactic, designed to bring the North back to the table after a provocative statement and a decision to skip planning talks and ignore preparatory phone calls.

But aides almost immediately suggested the meeting could still get back on track. And after a suitably conciliatory statement from North Korea, Trump said the same.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that since the letter, "the North Koreans have been engaging" with the U.S.

Trump views the meeting as a legacy-defining opportunity to make the nuclear deal that has evaded others, but he pledged to walk away from the meeting if he believed the North wasn't serious about discussing dismantling its nuclear program.

U.S. officials cast the on-again, off-again drama as in keeping with Trump's deal-making style, and reflective of the technically still-warring leaders testing each other. In his book "The Art of the Deal," Trump wrote: "The worst thing you can possibly do in a deal is seem desperate to make it. That makes the other guy smell blood, and then you're dead. The best thing you can do is deal from strength, and leverage is the biggest strength you can have."

After the North's combative statements, there was debate inside the Trump administration about whether it marked a real turn to belligerence or a feint to see how far Kim could push the U.S. in the leadup to the talks. Trump had mused that Kim's "attitude" had changed after the North Korean's surprise visit to China two weeks ago, suggesting China was pushing Kim away from the table. Trump's letter, the aides said, was designed to pressure the North on the international stage for appearing to have cold feet.

White House officials maintain that Trump was hopeful the North was merely negotiating, but that he was prepared for the letter to mark the end of the two-month flirtation. Instead, the officials said, it brought both sides to the table with increasing seriousness, as they work through myriad logistical and policy decisions to keep June 12 a viable option for the summit.

The flurry of diplomatic activity intensified Tuesday after South Korean media reported that Kim Yong Chol's name was on the passenger list for a fight Wednesday from Beijing to New York. Kim was seen in the Beijing airport on Tuesday by Associated Press Television. U.S. officials familiar with planning said he was scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday.

Kim Yong Chol is a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee. He will be the highest-level North Korean official to travel to the United States since 2000, when late National Defense Commission First Vice Chairman Jo Myong Rok visited Washington, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

Study estimates higher death toll in Puerto Rico post-Maria

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A new study contends that many more deaths than normal occurred in Puerto Rico in the three months after Hurricane Maria devastated the island, mostly because of problems getting medicines or medical care.

Researchers surveyed a small sample of neighborhoods and from that estimated that up to 4,600 more deaths than usual occurred, far more than earlier studies have suggested. At least one independent expert questioned the methods and the number in the new study.

"This estimate could be off by thousands. Easily," Donald Berry, a professor of biostatistics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, told The Associated Press in an email.

The research was published online in the New England Journal of Medicine. It's the latest study to analyze how many people died during or after the Category 4 storm that hit the U.S. territory in September 2017, causing more than an estimated $100 billion in damage. Researchers led by Harvard University called the official toll of 64 deaths a "substantial underestimate."

Maria caused the longest blackout in U.S. history, leaving the entire island of 3.3 million people without power, including those in hospitals and nursing homes who relied on respirators. Researchers surveyed 3,299 households earlier this year and used the findings to extrapolate to the whole island. They found that 31 percent reported disruptions in medical services, and more than 14 percent said they were unable to access medications.

"Indirect deaths resulting from worsening of chronic conditions or from delayed medical treatments may not be captured on death certificates," researchers said in the study.

They calculated 4,645 more people died in the three months after Maria compared with the same period in 2016. One of the researchers, Rafael Irizarry of Harvard University, told the AP that the estimate is uncertain because of its limited size, but that the study still provides valuable information, including how some people died.

Previous studies have found that the number of direct and indirect hurricane-related deaths in Puerto Rico is higher than the official toll, including a 2017 report that there were nearly 500 more deaths than usual on the island in September.

In late February, Puerto Rico's governor announced that a team of experts at George Washington University would lead an independent review to determine the number of deaths caused by Hurricane Maria amid ongoing accusations that the government undercounted the toll. A preliminary report was due in May, but Puerto Rico officials announced last week that the team requested and was granted more time. The director of that study did not return messages for comment.

ACROSS THE NATION

California flight school employees deny kidnapping student

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—Lawyers for two Northern California flight school employees deny accusations that their clients kidnapped a student pilot and tried to send him back to his native China. Police in Redding arrested flight instructor Jonathan McConkey and his assistant, Kelsi Hoser, on suspicion of kidnapping and conspiracy. Investigators say the pair assaulted Tianshu Shi at his apartment last week and forcibly took him to the city airport. Lawyers for McConkey and Hoser said in a joint statement Tuesday that their clients deny the accusations and intend to prove their innocence. The two were released from custody after posting bail. No court date was immediately set. Their employer, IASCO Flight Training, hasn't returned phone messages seeking comment. Shi, a trainee in the U.S. on a student visa, sustained minor injuries.

Woman blames death of family on botched fake robbery

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP)—Court records show a woman accused in the deaths of three members of a Connecticut family told investigators the slayings were the result of a botched fake robbery. Ruth Correa says she and her brother, Sergio, met with Matthew Lindquist on Dec. 20 to exchange drugs for guns kept inside his parents' Griswold home. Court records unsealed Tuesday show Ruth Correa said Lindquist told them to tie him up and make it look like the guns were stolen. Correa says Lindquist backed out of the plan, and her brother stabbed him. She says her brother killed Lindquist's parents and the two robbed their home before setting it on fire. Sergio Correa has not been charged, and his lawyer says he had nothing to do with the killings.

Coach: Southwest agent asked for proof biracial son was hers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Southwest Airlines apologized Tuesday to the Cal women's basketball coach Lindsay Gottlieb after she claimed an airline employee stopped her from boarding because the worker didn't believe her 1-year-old biracial son was hers. A desk agent questioned Gottlieb ahead of a flight from Denver to Oakland Sunday, saying she "had to 'prove' that he was my son, despite having his passport," Gottlieb said in a series of tweets. "She said because we have different last name. My guess is because he has a different skin color," Gottlieb tweeted Monday. The head coach from the University of California, Berkeley was traveling with her fiance, Patrick Martin, the boy's father, who is black. Airlines aren't required to match the last name of a child and guardian for domestic flights. "We have reached out to Ms. Gottlieb directly to address her concerns and will utilize the situation as a coaching opportunity for our Employee," Southwest said in a statement. "We apologize if our interaction made this family uncomfortable—that is never our intention."

Asia

Mattis: US will confront China on militarization of islands

HONOLULU (AP)—The U.S. will continue to confront China's militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday, arguing that Beijing hasn't abided by its promise not to put weapons on the Spratly Islands.

Mattis said American ships are maintaining a "steady drumbeat" of naval operations around the disputed islands, adding that "only one country" seems to be bothered by the vessels' routine activities.

"We are going out of our way to cooperate with Pacific nations, that's the way we do business in the world," Mattis told reporters traveling with him to a national security conference in Singapore. "But we are also going to confront what we believe is out of step with international law, out of step with international tribunals that have spoken on the issue."

The United States has long been critical of China's sweeping sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, disputed by several neighboring governments. On Sunday, two U.S. warships sailed close to the Paracel Islands, which lie north of the Spratlys, the latest freedom of navigation operation designed to challenge Beijing's claims. China protested the maneuver.

But the latest spat comes amid unusual tension between the U.S. and China on trade and as President Donald Trump eyes a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to discuss Pyongyang's nuclear program.

China is North Korea's traditional ally and is wary of any shift in the balance of power on the Korean Peninsula. After North Korea threatened to withdraw from the summit last week, Trump attributed the "change in attitude" to the influence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, who recently met with Kim. However, by Tuesday the summit appeared back on track again, with Kim dispatching a top aide for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in New York.

According to the U.S., the freedom of navigation missions are meant to underscore the rights of the U.S. and others to operate in international waters and airspace and to block efforts by any nation to unlawfully extend their boundaries or territorial rights. But Washington has signaled its displeasure in other ways, last week withdrawing an invitation for Beijing to participate in a large, multinational naval exercise in the Pacific later this summer. China had participated in the exercise known as Rim of the Pacific in 2014 and 2016.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience plus three (3) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance from an accredited college or university is required. CPA certification is required; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) skills is required. Experience using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Simphony. MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System, AS400 Payroll System, FAS Asset Accounting Program and Online Bank's Business Connection (WebCash Management System) is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Minimum IT industry experience (5 years minimum) required; thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2017 & Oracle database administration skills and corporate anti-virus software, Access database and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(11) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) COOK – THAI CUISINE
Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR
Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES)
Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in the electrical/electronic fields and the ability to demonstrate high proficiency in these areas is required. A thorough knowledge of electrical / electronic components and equipment including the use of special instruments for diagnostic purposes is required. Skill-level requirements vary from troubleshooting to board- or component-level repair. Willing to work any shift and overtime as required. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "Clubmate" position. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(6) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Must have at least three (3) years related work experience in Food & Beverage service, two (2) years of supervisory experience, plus one (1) year relevant work experience in coordinating events; Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
Minimum of six (6) month's work related experience is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) month work related experience is required. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of one (1) year hospitality experience. Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelor's degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2017 & Oracle database, MAS90 Accounting System, administration skills, Corporate Anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, SPAM and Virus Firewall, IP Surveillance Systems, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Should be knowledgeable in utilizing a hotel database. Must have a thorough working knowledge of web programming and systems analysis. Must have general management ability as well as specific knowledge of the company's computer/network systems. Must be able to communicate with all department heads in the company that require computer and network systems. Must be able to translate the requirements of each department into a workable computer operation. Must keep up with new developments in computers, Networking and (VOIP) voice over IP equipment. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

(1) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN
Minimum of two (2) years experience as a musician. Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian. Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis. At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(2) PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER
Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) PLUMBER
Minimum of five years related work experience; must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(2) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(4) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ROOM ATTENDANT
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, June 14, 2018.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

World

Inmate on leave kills 3 in Belgium, setting off terror probe

LIEGE, Belgium (AP)—A knife-wielding prison inmate on a 48-hour leave stabbed two police officers Tuesday in the Belgian city of Liege, seized their service weapons and shot them and a bystander to death before being mowed down by a group of officers, setting off a major terror investigation into the country's most savage assault since 2016 suicide attacks.

Prime Minister Charles Michel acknowledged the assailant, who had a lengthy criminal record that included theft, assault and drug offenses, had appeared in three reports on radicalism but was still allowed to take a leave from prison.

"Is our system working when we see that these kind of people are running free?" asked vice premier Alexander De Croo, echoing the thoughts of many in a nation where armed police and gun-toting soldiers still patrol the streets in the wake of the March 2016 attacks that left 32 people dead at the Brussels airport and subway system.

Tuesday's attack happened outside a cafe in the eastern city of Liege when the assailant crept up on the two female officers from behind and stabbed them repeatedly.

Forensic police investigate at the scene of a shooting in Liege, Belgium, Tuesday, May 29, 2018. AP

"He then took their weapons. He used the weapons on the officers, who died," the Liege prosecutor's spokesman, Philippe Dulieu, told reporters.

A knife-wielding man fatally stabbed two police officers Tuesday in the Belgian city of Liege, stole their weapons and shot them and a bystander dead in an attack that prosecutors fear could be terror-related. (May 29)

Dulieu said the attacker then shot and killed a 22-year-old teacher in a vehicle that was leaving a parking lot outside a nearby high school. He then took two women hostage inside the school before confronting police massed outside.

"He came out firing at police, wounding a number of them, notably in the legs. He was shot dead," the spokesman said, adding that the hostages escaped unharmed.

Justice Minister Koen Geens described the assailant as a repeat offender who had been incarcerated since 2003 and was due for release in two years.

Police Chief Christian Beaupere said "the goal of the attacker was to target the police." He identified the slain officers as 45-year-old Lucile Garcia and 53-year-old Soraya Belkacemi. He said Belkacemi was the mother of 13-year-old twin daughters who earlier lost their father, also a police officer. Four other officers were wounded in the attack, one seriously with a severed femoral artery.

Belgian media identified the suspect as Benjamin Herman, a Belgian national born in 1982, though in keeping with standard procedure authorities declined to confirm his identity.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon said authorities were also investigating the suspected killing on Monday of an old acquaintance of the assailant and said there could be a link. "It is a serious hypothesis," he told the VRT network.

Asked about a video from close to the scene in which someone appeared to be shouting "Allahu Akbar!" in the din, Jambon said: "My reaction is that in many terror acts, it is the last thing they shout." But, he added, it is up to federal investigators to determine if Tuesday's attack was terrorism.

"The investigation judge must find out if we talk about terror. Because terror also has to do with someone who gives the order, ISIS or someone else, if others are involved. We need to look at all these elements," Jambon said.

Michel said the suspect in Tuesday's attack was indirectly mentioned in state security reports on radicalization. But, the prime minister added, the reference was "in notes that did not primarily target him, but others or other situations," and he was not on a list of suspects maintained by the main OCAD anti-terror assessment group.

Asked about reports that the assailant was radicalized in prison, Geens, the justice minister, said it "was not a clear-cut case."

"He certainly was not someone who could clearly be qualified as radicalized. Otherwise he would have been known as such by all services," Geens said.

But a senior official at the federal prosecutor's office told The Associated Press that "there are indications it could be a terror attack." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Nevertheless, Belgium's crisis center said the country's terror threat alert would not be raised and remained at level 2 out of 4. It briefly stood at a maximum 4 shortly after the 2016 attacks.

Belgium's King Philippe, Michel and the country's justice and interior ministers traveled to Liege to confer with local officials.

"I want to offer my government's support for the victims, for the victims' families," Michel said.

It's not the first time Liege has been hit by a violent attack. In December 2011, a man with a history of weapons and drug offenses hurled hand grenades into a square filled with Christmas shoppers then opened fire on those who tried to escape. Five people were killed, including the assailant.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gaza's Hamas rulers say cease-fire reached with Israel

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza's Hamas rulers said Wednesday they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the sides since a 2014 war. Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened "after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression." He said militant groups in Gaza will commit to the cease-fire as long as Israel does. Israeli Cabinet minister Naftali Bennett told Israel's Army Radio no agreement had been reached yet. The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early Wednesday morning, setting off air raid sirens in the area throughout the night. The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war. The border area has been tense in recent weeks as Palestinians have held mass protests aimed at lifting an Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas seized power in 2007.

Russia criticized at UN over Ukraine conflict, Crimea, crash

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia has faced sharp criticism in the Security Council over the conflict in eastern Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea, and an investigation linking the Russian military to the downing of a Malaysian Airlines plane over Ukraine. The three issues were raised Tuesday at the council's first meeting on Ukraine since February 2017 which saw Russia's Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia clash with Ukraine, Netherlands, Poland, the U.S. and other council members. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said the four-year conflict between Ukrainian forces and separatist rebels in the east "was invented by the Kremlin to punish Ukrainians for their aspiration toward freedom, democracy and European future." Nebenzia retorted that some Ukrainians don't want to settle the conflict—"what you do want is a hotbed of instability on the borders of Russia."

Killer of Dutch politician Fortuyn freed from parole order

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A judge has ruled that the man who murdered populist Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn no longer has to report to parole authorities, freeing him to emigrate. Volkert van der Graaf was convicted of murder for gunning down Fortuyn on May 6, 2002, and sentenced to 18 years in prison. He was released in 2014 after serving two-thirds of his sentence but ordered to report every six weeks to a parole officer. Tuesday's written ruling says that the reporting order is no longer justified. Van der Graaf, an animal rights activist, applied to have the reporting order removed, saying he wanted to move overseas. Fortuyn, an outspoken academic, shook up the Netherlands with his anti-immigrant rhetoric. He was hated by many on the left but popular among blue-collar Dutch.

Hungarian govt looks to constitution to keep immigrants out

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—The Hungarian government proposed constitutional amendments and a new law Tuesday that are intended to prevent Hungary "from becoming an immigrant country" by further tightening its policies on accepting refugees and asylum-seekers.

The law submitted to parliament would make it a criminal offense punishable by up to a year in prison to promote or facilitate "illegal migration." Dubbed "Stop Soros" by the government, it partly targets civic groups, some supported by Hungarian-American financier George Soros, which offer legal and other aid to asylum-seekers.

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, one of the groups most vilified by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's anti-immigration government, said its activities were lawful and called the proposal "unacceptable in a democratic state."

The bill "threatens to lock up and imprison those who behave legally in the defense of Hungary's human rights obligations," the group said.

The constitutional amendments put forward add language saying that "foreign populations cannot be settled in Hungary" and would place additional limits on eligibility for asylum.

For example, people who entered Hungary from a country where they were not persecuted or threatened with persecution would be ineligible.

Since most asylum-seekers from the Middle East and Asia reach Hungary from Serbia, they would be unlikely to meet the new requirement.

The United Nations refugee agency called on the government to withdraw the legislation.

"Seeking asylum is a fundamental human right. It is not a crime," Pascale Moreau, director of the UNHCR's Europe office, said. "We are particularly concerned that the government is targeting those who, in a purely humanitarian role, help people who are seeking asylum."

Orban's Fidesz party won a two-thirds majority in an April election, giving it the freedom to modify the Hungarian Constitution unchallenged. Orban, who won his third consecutive term and fourth overall, campaigned almost exclusively on fighting immigration, vowing to defend Hungary's Christian culture from immigrants who are predominantly Muslims.

Hungary built razor-wire fences on its southern borders with Serbia and Croatia in 2015 after some 400,000 people passed through the country on their way to western destinations like Germany and the Netherlands.

In the past year, the government has conducted repeated ad campaigns against Soros, accusing him of supporting indiscriminate migration to Europe.

Message of Appreciation

†PEDRO PANGELINAN TENORIO

We didn't know that morning
God was going to call your name...
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same...
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

Our hearts are humbled and honored with the outpouring support, kindness, words of wisdom and most especially the unconditional love extended to us by our many relatives and friends who came from near and far and stood by our side as we endured the pain and loss of our dearly beloved.

Your presence at the daily masses of intention, rosaries, and most especially the day we laid our beloved to rest deeply touched our hearts and assures us of how much he is loved. Our BELOVED is now at rest with our Creator, watching and smiling down on each one of us as we go about our lives, but as each day begins, it is our fervent hope that the spirit and fond memories of our BELOVED will forever be instilled in our hearts, long to be forgotten.

Your kindness and love will forever be treasured as we keep them close to our hearts and we ask Almighty God to shower us all with His graces and blessings as we move on with our lives.

Thank you, dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow

Sophia Pangelinan Tenorio, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

Life & Style

ABC cancels 'Roseanne' following star's racist tweet

ABC canceled its hit reboot of "Roseanne" on Tuesday following star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet that referred to former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett as a product of the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes."

ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said the comment "is abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values." Barr had apologized and deleted her Monday-night tweet, calling it a "bad joke," but the damage had already been done.

Barr was also dumped by her talent agency, ICM Partners.

The revival of the comedy was a surprise smash for ABC, owned by the Walt Disney Co., and was counted on to lead the network's fortunes next season. Its first new episode in March was seen by more than 25 million people, with delayed viewing counted in, numbers that are increasingly rare in network television. ABC expected advertisers to pay millions of dollars for the chance to be seen during commercial breaks on television's most popular comedy after "The Big Bang Theory."

And it was all killed in a 53-character tweet.

One of the few network shows about a working-class family, "Roseanne" attracted considerable attention upon its return when Barr's character supported President Donald Trump. That made the show popular with conservative viewers, and Trump himself suggested the character's backing had a lot to do with the show's success.

ABC has canceled 'Roseanne' following star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet about former Obama aide Valerie Jarrett. (May 29)

In this Jan. 8, 2018, file photo, Roseanne Barr participates in the "Roseanne" panel during the Disney/ABC Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour in Pasadena, Calif. AP

Barr herself has a history of diving into political conspiracy theories on her Twitter feed, and she ended her Memorial Day weekend with a series of statements. She criticized Democratic financier George Soros and tweeted that Chelsea Clinton was "Chelsea Soros Clinton," implying she was married to a nephew of Soros. Clinton herself corrected Barr online. Donald Trump Jr. retweeted two of Barr's statements about Soros, although not the remark about Jarrett.

Jarrett, who is black, was brought up in response to Twitter commentary that raised her name in relation to an Obama conspiracy theory. Barr tweeted: "muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj."

She later tweeted an apology to Jarrett. "Forgive me," she wrote. "My joke was in bad taste."

Jarrett, who appeared at the taping of an MSNBC show about racism on Tuesday, said she hoped the incident could be turned into a teaching moment.

"I'm fine," she said. "I'm worried about the people out there who don't have a circle of friends and followers who come right to their defense."

Barr was quickly condemned. Comic Wanda Sykes, a "Roseanne" writer, tweeted that she wouldn't be returning to the show. Sara Gilbert, a co-star, also tweeted that the remark was abhorrent.

It was a quick decision at ABC for Dungey, who is the first African-American to serve as programming chief for one of the major broadcast networks, and her boss, network president Ben Sherwood. Disney chief executive Robert Iger tweeted his approval: "There was only one thing to do here, and that was the right thing."

Three weeks earlier, "Roseanne" was the toast of ABC's annual presentation of its programming plans to advertisers. Sherwood even joked then: "If anyone came to play a drinking game based on how many times we mention 'Roseanne,' you're welcome."

"Roseanne" earned an estimated $45 million in advertising revenue for ABC through its nine episodes that started airing in March, according to Kantar Media. The firm estimates that the 13 episodes that had been ordered for next season would have brought in as much as $60 million, with more through repeat episodes.

Hulu and the Laff comedy channel said Tuesday they were pulling re-runs of "Roseanne" from their schedules.

The cancellation has no clear precedent in television history, said David Bianculli, professor at Rowan University in New Jersey. The closest analogy is CBS pulling the plug on the Smothers Brothers variety show due to their anti-war views in the late 1960s and the same network not renewing "Lou Grant" at its peak, which star Ed Asner always contended was due to his outspoken political beliefs. ***(AP)***

Reactions to 'Roseanne' cancellation

"Roseanne's Twitter statement is abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values, and we have decided to cancel her show."—ABC Entertainment chief Channing Dungey, in a statement.

"There was only one thing to do here, and that was the right thing."—Chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Co. Robert Iger, via Twitter.

"I apologize to Valerie Jarrett and to all Americans. I am truly sorry for making a bad joke about her politics and her looks. I should have known better. Forgive me-my joke was in bad taste."—Roseanne Barr, via Twitter, before ABC's decision was announced. In another tweet: "I apologize. I am now leaving Twitter."

"Don't feel sorry for me, guys!!-I just want to apologize to the hundreds of people,and wonderful writers (all liberal) and talented actors who lost their jobs on my show due to my stupid tweet."—Barr in a tweet late Tuesday.

"I'm fine. I'm worried about the people out there who don't have a circle of friends and followers who come right to their defense."—Jarrett, speaking during an MSNBC town hall on race Tuesday evening.

"Thank you, @ABC-Network. You did the right thing. There is not any room in our society for racism or bigotry."—Civil rights activist and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, via Twitter.

"Roseanne Barr's comments were appalling and reminiscent of horrific time in our history when racism was not only acceptable but promoted by Hollywood. We applaud ABC for taking a stand against racism by canceling 'Roseanne.' We commend the network and ... Dungey for placing the values of diversity, inclusion and respect for humanity above ratings."—NAACP president and CEO Derrick Johnson, in a statement.

"you can take @RoseanneOnABC out of racism but you can't take the racism out of @therealroseanne ..."—Don Cheadle, via Twitter.

"Roseanne Barr's vicious personal attack on former Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett came out of nowhere and cost Ms. Barr and the entire staff of her program their jobs. @ABC/@Disney could not continue with the show without insulting millions of Americans."—Bill O'Reilly, via Twitter.

"I'm glad Roseanne is canceled. The backlash to its cancellation is going to be a deafening nightmare. Nothing good has come of this entire thing."—Kumail Nanjiani of "The Big Sick," via Twitter.

"#Rosanne is who she tells you she is with every comment and tweet."—Josh Gad, via Twitter.

"On behalf of all the writers and producers, we worked incredibly hard to create an amazing show. I was personally horrified and saddened by the comments and in no way do they reflect the values of the people who worked so hard to make this the iconic show that it is."—'Roseanne' executive producer and co-show-runner Bruce Helford, in a statement released through his agent.

Jury: David Copperfield not liable for tourist's injuries

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Illusionist David Copperfield was found negligent but not financially responsible for a British tourist's injuries during a signature vanishing act that used participants from the audience of a Las Vegas Strip show in 2013, a jury said Tuesday.

Gavin Cox and his wife, Minh-Hahn Cox, alleged negligence by the multimillionaire magician, the MGM Grand hotel, two Copperfield business entities and a construction firm that was renovating the hotel.

In a complex verdict reached after several weeks of testimony but only about two hours of deliberation, the state civil court jury found negligence by Copperfield, the hotel and Copperfield's company, Backstage Disappearing Inc.

But jurors found no liability for each of those named in the lawsuit, and instead found Cox 100 percent responsible for his own injuries. The verdict means the Coxes cannot seek monetary damages, court spokeswoman Mary Ann Price said.

Gavin Cox testified that he suffered brain and other injuries in a fall while stagehands urged him and others to run during an illusion that appeared to make as many as 13 audience volunteers disappear onstage and reappear moments later, waving flashlights in the back of the theater.

His lawyer, Benedict Morelli, told jurors during closing arguments that the trick was inherently dangerous, and that Copperfield should be held partially liable for Cox's injuries. Four years ago, attorneys estimated that Cox had that racked up more than $400,000 in medical costs.

Copperfield's lawyers lost a bid to close the courtroom to the public to prevent disclosure of secrets about the illusion. At least 55,000 audience volunteers had taken part in the trick over 17 years, according to Copperfield and show executive producer Chris Kenner.

Jurors learned that in about 60 to 90 seconds, stagehands with flashlights ushered the randomly chosen participants past dark curtains, down passageways, around corners, outdoors, indoors and through an MGM Grand resort kitchen to re-enter the theater for the show's finale, according to testimony.

"I was having a good time up until the time I was injured," Cox testified.

He recalled stagehands shouting "Run! Run! Run!" through an outdoor alleyway that his lawyers say was coated with construction dust.

Cox, 57, a former chef from Kent, England, said he fell hard on his right side and didn't remember getting up to finish the illusion in November 2013.

Afterward, Cox said he received medical treatment from paramedics and at a hospital for shoulder and other injuries. Two day later, he and his wife and a lawyer returned to the theater at the MGM Grand and filed an accident report.

Copperfield testified that until Cox sued in August 2014, he never knew of anyone getting hurt during nearly 20 years performing the illusion on tour and in Las Vegas. He said he stopped performing it in 2015.

The magician said he didn't see construction dust on the ground when he passed through the same outdoor alley alone as part of another illusion about 10 minutes earlier.

Cox's lawyers brought in three women who testified that they also were injured during the illusion over the years, including a Michigan schoolteacher who said she fell but finished with a bloody knee during a Copperfield performance about five months before Cox's fall.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Tennis star Boris Becker and wife break up

BERLIN (AP)—Former German tennis star Boris Becker and his wife Lilly have separated. The German news agency dpa reported Tuesday that a Berlin lawyer for the two confirmed the breakup of three-time Wimbledon winner Becker, 50, and his Dutch model wife, who is 41 years old. Lawyer Christian-Oliver Moser told dpa "the decision after a 13-year-long relationship and nine years of marriage wasn't an easy one." Moser said the couple's main concern now was the wellbeing of their son Amadeus and that the separation was "amicable." In recent years, Becker mainly made headlines with rumors about his financial problems.

Prince's retreat in Turks and Caicos Islands up for sale

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A private retreat is up for auction in the Turks and Caicos Islands that's believed to be the only remaining property in Prince's real estate portfolio. A New York auction house is taking sealed bids on the 5.7-acre (23,000 sq.-meter) property which is surrounded by water on three sides and includes several structures totaling more than 10,000 square feet (930 sq. meters). The Star Tribune says the property includes two private beaches, a marina and a long, winding driveway painted purple. Prince bought the property in 2011 for $13 million. The property is expected sell for at least $15 million. The auction ends July 12. Prince died of an accidental fentanyl overdose on April 21, 2016. His estate began selling his real estate holdings in late 2016.

Justin Timberlake visits Texas shooting survivor in hospital

SANTA FE, Texas (AP)—Pop star Justin Timberlake made a surprise visit to a Texas school shooting survivor as she recovers from her wounds in a hospital. Sarah Salazar was among the more than two dozen injured in the May 18 attack at Santa Fe High School. Her mother, Sonia Lopez-Puentes, shared on Facebook a photo that shows Timberlake wearing a medical gown and rubber gloves as he poses next to a smiling Salazar in her hospital room last Friday. According to an online fundraiser for Salazar, the teenager suffered a broken jaw and will need shoulder replacement surgery after the shooting. Timberlake performed two shows in nearby Houston last week as part of his Man of the Woods tour.

Blake Painter, 'Deadliest Catch' skipper, found dead in home

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP)—Blake Painter, an Oregon fisherman featured on the television series "The Deadliest Catch," has died. He was 38. Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin said Tuesday Painter had been found in his Astoria home May 25 by a friend who visited after being unable to reach him. Bergin said a cause of death would not be released until a toxicology report had been completed, but there was no apparent evidence of foul play. Painter rose to prominence after appearing on early seasons of the Discovery Channel series, which chronicles the lives and work of fishermen in Alaska waters, with an eye to the hazards of the profession.

In 'Solo' stumble, a crossroads for Disney's 'Star Wars'

NEW YORK (AP)—The reaches of the galaxy far, far away might not be quite as vast as previously thought.

In a box-office blip that echoed through the multiplexes, "Solo: A Star Wars Story" didn't fare well over the Memorial Day weekend, amassing an estimated $103 million in ticket sales from Thursday night to Monday. Most movies dream of such openings, but the standard for "Star Wars" is different, as is the bottom line.

"Solo," which switched directors mid-production, cost more than $250 million to make, and it was expected to debut with around $150 million. For the first time, the "Star Wars" juggernaut was humbled at the box office. The opening marked the worst debut in the franchise's history and Disney's stock slid 2.5 percent in trading Tuesday.

No one yet needs to run panicked through the streets yelling "Save the Wookies!" But for the first time since Disney acquired Lucasfilm in 2012 for $4.05 billion, the profit potential within George Lucas' space saga no longer appears limitless.

Instead of opening up a new Han Solo trilogy, the disappointing arrival of "Solo" only intensified the questions bubbling around one of the movies' biggest properties. Is there a filmmaker beside J.J. Abrams that can win over both die-hards and new fans? How slavish should subsequent sequels and spinoffs be to the originals? Is there anyone in China who cares a lick about lightsabers?

"I think they knew they had a problem a long time ago," said Jeff Bock, senior box office analyst for Exhibitor Relations. "What, 75 percent of the directors are fired and don't finish the film? You've got internal problems."

Those problems came to a head on "Solo," where filmmakers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller were replaced during shooting by Ron Howard, who steered the film in a less irreverent comic direction that stayed closer to the script co-written by Lawrence Kasdan, the veteran "Star Wars" scribe of "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi." Once envisioned as a western-style prequel romp, "Solo" became an existential battle over the tone of "Star Wars," as Lucasfilm struggled to find a balance between old and new.

"If this is the business of movies now—and these are the ones that are actually in theaters—then it's got to be this push and pull, constantly," Kasdan said in an interview ahead of the film's release. "There's an added thing when you make a 'Star Wars' movie. You run into people in England—and in Marin County but mainly in England—who have been working on it off and on for 40 years. That's like entering a cult. You have the same people who worked on Chewie's costume in the original film, still working on it."

Finding a way to propel "Star Wars" forward while maintaining spiritual ties to Lucas' hallowed original trilogy is only going to get more complicated. Up next is Episode IX, which J.J. Abrams has taken the helm on after Colin Trevorrow was jettisoned. But after that film, which in December 2019 will close out the third "Star Wars" trilogy, a fleet of sequels and spinoffs are planned.

"Last Jedi" writer-director Rian Johnson is developing another trilogy in the main line of films. "Game of Thrones" creators D.B. Weiss and David Benioff will write and produce a separate batch of "Star Wars" films. Jon Favreau is writing and executive producing a live-action series for Disney's upcoming streaming platform. James Mangold ("Logan") is to write and a direct a Boba Fett film. Rumors have long swirled about an Obi-Wan Kenobi spinoff. And Disney will next year add "Star Wars" villages to its theme parks.

The litany of releases has, for some, diluted the power of "Star Wars." "Solo" followed "The Last Jedi" by just five months, leading some to wonder if moviegoers are showing signs of "Star Wars" fatigue.

Broadway's box office booms, with grosses and attendance up

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway grosses hit another record high last season by pulling in $1.7 billion, fueled by fervent demand to see such draws as Bruce Springsteen, Bette Midler and a grown-up Harry Potter.

Data from the Broadway League, the national trade association for the industry, released Tuesday shows box office receipts were up 17.1 percent over last season's $1.45 billion.

Another good note in the financial windfall was that attendance was up, coming in a 13.79 million, an increase of 3.9 percent at last season's 13.27 million. That indicates some broadening of ticket-buyers, but mostly just higher prices pushing the yearly box-office records.

Broadway had a healthy cluster of new powerhouse earners this season, including Tina Fey's "Mean Girls," the British import "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" and Springsteen. They added to established megahits such as "Hamilton," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Dear Evan Hansen."

The season ended with several shows breaking individual theater box-office records, including the revival of Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women," which earned $940,362 for the eight show week at the Golden Theatre, and "Mean Girls," which set a new milestone for an eight-performance week at the Golden Theatre with $1,565,923.

Charlotte St. Martin, president of the Broadway League, in a statement said over 80 percent of Broadway shows had an average paid admission of under $130 and 60 percent had an average paid admission of less than $101.

A total of 33 shows opened during the season. There were seven new musicals, three musical revivals, 10 original plays, 10 play revivals and three special events. Last season saw 45 shows open.

The season—in a periodic quirk of the calendar, it was a 53-week season—began May 22, 2017, and ended Sunday. The number of playing weeks—Broadway's occupancy rate—was 1,624, up 2.8 percent.

Grandma is reluctant to share her title with boyfriend's mom

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter, "Emily," is 13. I have been very involved with her all her life. My daughter, "Ginger," is divorced and has had a boyfriend, "Greg," for about three years, but there has been no talk of marriage.

Greg's mother has told Emily to call her "Grandma." Emily is OK with that, but it hurt my feelings, Abby.

I feel that Greg's mother should realize she's using a title that's not hers. I realize she's trying to make Emily feel like part of their family, but to me, this is MY title, not hers. She has known Emily for three years, and while she's nice to her, I'm the one who has been doing grandma duties for 12 years—not her. To me, she should be called something special but not "Grandma."

How do I cope with this? Shouldn't the other "grandma" have realized she's pushing herself into the position of the real grandma?

HURT GRANDMA IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HURT: You are taking this too personally. If Greg's mother wasn't hoping her son would marry your daughter, she would not be "embracing" Emily the way she has.

Your granddaughter does not love this woman more than she does you. Whether Greg's mother "should" realize she's treading on thin ice is something I cannot conjecture. However, I'm sure she didn't do this to annoy you. If you bring this up with her, you WILL annoy HER, which will likely annoy her son and your daughter, so I advise against it. I'm betting that eventually she will become an official grandma—however, if that doesn't happen, your problem will be solved because she'll be history.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's horrible sisters have invited themselves to our home in Florida. They hate me. One's husband sexually assaulted me five years ago. When I had her come and get him (he was drunk), she accused me of making it up! (Abby, she saw it happen.)

The other sister has never invited us over for dinners or special events. She's extremely obese and will break our furniture if she sits on it.

We are in our 70s, live modestly and can't afford this selfish intrusion. My husband says, "But they're my sisters!" Please help me get out of this.

LOOKING FOR PEACE

DEAR LOOKING: I'll try. You and your husband are not joined at the hip. No law says you must be there. Yes, they are his sisters, so he can visit them in THEIR homes, without you. 'Nuff said?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend whose father recently passed away. Her mother passed away eight years ago. Everything was paid for—all funeral arrangements and anything else you can think of.

She's wondering what to do with the money she received in the cards people sent her. Have masses? Donate it to charity? Her sibling took some of the cards from her mom's funeral and applied the money toward a vacation. My friend just wants to do the right thing. What is the right thing

WANTS TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT

DEAR WANTS: If the money isn't needed for expenses, it is the recipient's to do with as she (or he) wishes. However, a thoughtful and respectful thing to do would be for your friend to donate it to a charity her father supported, or toward research into a cure for the disease that took his life.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

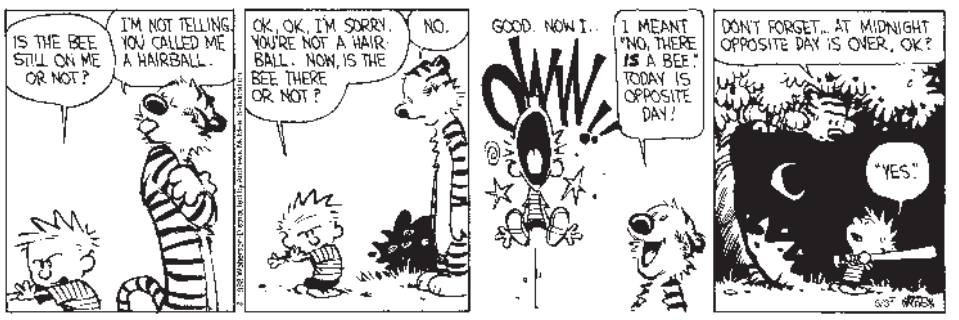
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

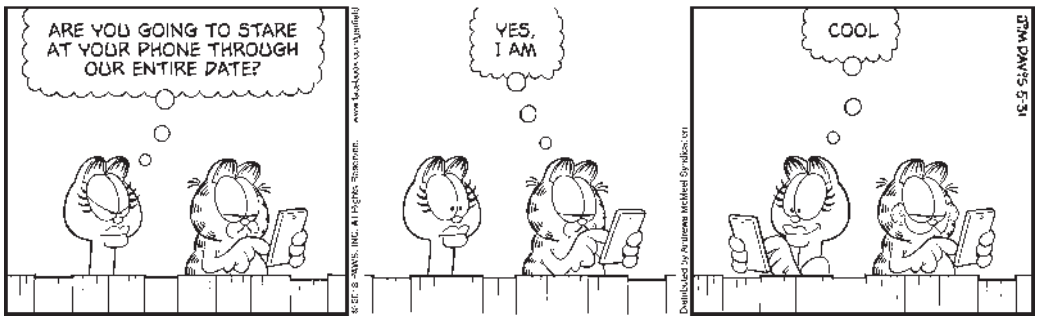
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS THE BEE STILL ON ME OR NOT?
I'M NOT TELLING. YOU CALLED ME A HAIRBALL.
OK, OK, I'M SORRY. YOU'RE NOT A HAIRBALL. NOW, IS THE BEE THERE OR NOT?
NO.
GOOD. NOW I..
AWW!!
I MEANT "NO, THERE IS A BEE." TODAY IS OPPOSITE DAY!
DON'T FORGET... AT MIDNIGHT OPPOSITE DAY IS OVER, OK?
"YES."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



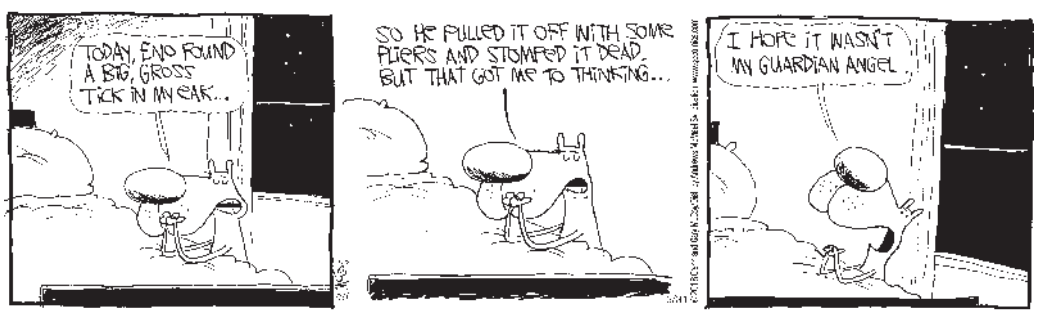
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HAVE YOU BEEN SELLING TRAFFIC SANDWICHES LONG?
COUPLE YEARS.
WELL, THEY'RE SIMPLY AMAZING. YOU HAVE A GIFT.
I WAS TELLING MY WIFE ABOUT YOUR PASTRAMI AND HOW IT JUST MELTS...
MOVING ON? RIGHT. GOTCHA. GOOD TALK! SEE YOU TOMORROW, SANDWICH BUDDY! I'LL JUST... YEAH... OKAY...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


TODAY, ENO FOUND A BIG, GROSS TICK IN MY EAR...
SO HE PULLED IT OFF WITH SOME PLIERS AND STOMPED IT DEAD. BUT THAT GOT ME TO THINKING...
I HOPE IT WASN'T MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

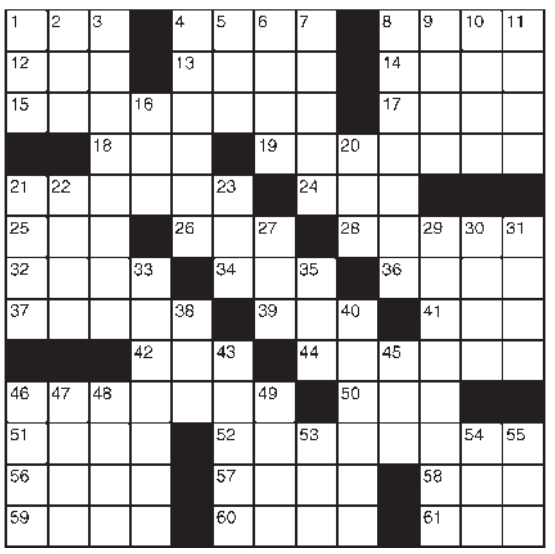
ACROSS
1 Ozone, for one
4 Pencil filler
8 Even
12 Altar vow
13 Ticklish Muppet
14 Went on horseback
15 Daughter's husband
17 MP's quarry
18 Speck
19 Wave of destruction
21 Like some cuisine
24 Hosp. sections
25 Commonest English word
26 Schlep
28 Delicate ornament
32 Desertlike
34 Light touch
36 Turner and Danson
37 Poison —
39 Scratch the surface
41 Frank McCourt memoir
42 Apprehend
44 Like "it"
46 Groups of geese
50 X-ray's cousin
51 Competent
52 Castaway Crusoe
56 — gum (thickener)
57 Send forth
58 Music's Yoko
59 $ dispensers
60 Sawbucks
61 Pester

DOWN
1 USO patrons
2 Hubbub
3 "Into the Woods" composer
4 Soup legume
5 Right angle
6 Latin 101 word
7 Use a divining rod
8 Trains, buses, etc.
9 Hawk-eyes' home
10 Ancient Dead Sea land
11 Sandwich shop
16 Charged bit
20 City area, for short
21 JFK guesses
22 Drive- — window
23 Snip
27 Leg. in slang
29 Throw overboard
30 "Garfield" dog
31 Cold War initials
33 Perils
35 Zero-star review
38 Baseball's Ripken
40 Sends in, as payment
43 Jaunty chapeau
45 Coffee vessel
46 Quite enthusiastic
47 Border on
48 Glitz partner
49 Not all
53 Crib
54 — whim
55 Eggy quaff

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	T	Y		P	A	C	K		A	S	T	I	
T	C	O		I	N	O	N		S	I	N	E	
A	N	D		C	A	M	F	C	.	F	A	N	
Y	F	A	R	N			W	I	O				
			M	I	R	A		O	P	R	A	I	
C	O	R	N	C	O	B	S		E	A	V	E	
A	M	A		S	T	R	O	P		G	E	E	
W	A	R	M		C	A	S	H	C	A	R	D	
S	N	A	I	L		M	A	A	M				
			N	A	G			N	I	C	E	R	
C	L	A	Y	C	O	U	R	T		A	L	I	
B	O	L	A		U	N	T	O		F	I	N	
S	P	A	N		P	O	E	M		E	E	K	

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 42; Brooke Shields, 53; Tom Berenger, 69; Clint Eastwood, 88.

Happy Birthday: Don't underestimate others as you move forward this year. Only trust what you know, and always verify what others tell you. Speak with authority and show initiative in all your pursuits. Check out lifestyle options and consider adding more physical fitness to your daily routine. Strive for personal perfection. Don't let personal problems stand in your way. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 27, 34, 43, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* It's up to you to bring about change or to make things happen. Figure out a logical plan and take physical action. Don't let negative people deter you from making your dreams come true. Follow your heart and get started. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make choices based on your needs. Refuse to let what others do or how others react change your plans. Stand strong and do your own thing. Personal physical alterations are in your best interest, even if someone disagrees. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can talk your way in or out of any situation, but remember to be truthful or someone will call your bluff. Travel, business meetings, pursuing information and socializing with knowledgeable people are favored. Negotiate on your own behalf. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Rely on your insight and intuition to guide you in matters concerning colleagues, business decisions and partnerships. It's important to understand what others want before you make a decision to bring about change. Networking and personal improvements are encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Before making a change or jumping from one position to another, you should consider your motives and how your choices will affect others. Focus on how you can make a positive difference in your community. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* The less time you spend trying to persuade others to do things your way, the less likely it is you will gain support. Take physical action, and do whatever it takes to put your plans in motion. Your actions will draw backing. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look out for your interests. Speak up and refuse to let anyone take you out of your comfort zone by making unrealistic demands or toying with your feelings to guilt you into something you don't want to do. Rely on yourself. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Getting together with people who share your beliefs or interests or finding out more about your family background will help you understand your strengths and weaknesses. Don't settle for less when you can have so much more. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* The past can keep you from making a terrible mistake. Don't let gullibility or fond memories cause you to give in to someone looking for a handout. Partnerships have to be built on trust and equality. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Get serious about life, love and how best to use your attributes to your advantage. Physical improvements, romantic gestures and commitments are favored. Don't take on a challenge or dare that will disrupt your stability. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make changes at home that will benefit you as well as those you live with. Discuss your plans and delegate jobs in order to free up time to tend to other important matters. Work in unison with others. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll face opposition if you are reluctant to fulfill your duties or responsibilities. It's OK to be different, but first you have to take care of business and live up to your promises. Romance, pampering and physical improvements are highlighted. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, curious and enthusiastic. You are intellectual and adventurous.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8				6	7
	4						2	
	1			4	9		3	
9			5	2				6
2				6	8			3
	9		3	1			5	
	6						1	
7	8				6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	6	8	9	4	7	3	1
7	1	9	2	3	6	8	4	5
8	3	4	5	7	1	2	9	6
4	7	5	3	8	2	1	6	9
6	8	3	4	1	9	5	7	2
9	2	1	6	5	7	4	8	3
1	9	8	7	2	3	6	5	4
5	4	2	9	6	8	3	1	7
3	6	7	1	4	5	9	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BRUSHING YOUR CAT Solution: 9 letters

D	F	S	U	D	E	E	U	E	N	I	T	U	O	R
M	U	I	C	E	L	S	P	L	E	D	A	L	B	H
A	R	O	R	X	D	R	W	T	L	A	T	E	M	Y
T	M	M	E	A	D	A	A	S	G	E	L	K	Ⓣ	T
B	I	A	I	L	U	O	R	I	A	L	N	Ⓕ	T	H
R	N	H	F	E	C	C	D	R	Y	O	Ⓞ	R	S	M
E	A	C	F	R	S	W	S	B	T	Ⓢ	E	V	S	O
A	T	A	U	I	L	M	A	S	S	A	G	E	E	O
K	O	F	L	F	E	R	L	S	T	L	O	M	N	R
E	R	K	F	N	E	E	S	S	H	I	D	A	K	G
R	Y	U	I	B	E	T	S	E	H	C	P	E	C	R
S	B	H	B	K	E	L	D	O	O	P	L	D	I	O
H	S	U	R	B	R	E	K	C	I	L	S	O	H	W
E	R	E	L	G	N	A	T	N	U	L	I	A	T	T
D	P	E	T	T	I	N	G	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/31

Belly, Blade, Bristle, Buff, Chamois, Chest, Coarse, Comb, Cuddle, Ears, Fluffier, Fur Coat, FURminator, Glove, Groom, Growth, Healthy, Knots, Massage, Matbreakers, Metal, Molt, Napping, Petting, Poodle, Relaxed, Rhythm, Routine, Rubber, Shed, Shine, Silky, Sleek, Slicker Brush, Soft, Tail, Thickness, Treats, Untangle, Upward, Washcloth

Yesterday's Answer: Meal

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Building and Ground Maintenance repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau estates at 483-9351.

TAGA SPORTS

APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION

The CNMI's premier sports magazine is now available on issuu.com/tagasports

SAIPAN INT'L REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER CORPORATION

Is looking to hire

OSHA CERTIFICATION SAFETY OFFICER

- The Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO) shall have completed 5 years of satisfactory experience in preparing and enforcing a safety program on contracts of similar size and complexity in the past; have a current FA/CPR certificate;
- Must have completed 30-hour OSHA Construction safety class or equivalent within the last five years and have documented an average of at least 24 hours of safety training per year for the past five years.
- Must have multi-year experience with the application of EM-385
- Must be certified as STS, CSP or CHST.

For more information, please call Cindy Zhang at 233-5888 or send your resume at P.O. Box 10003 PMB 388 Saipan, MP 96950.

WHATZIT Solution: Dr. Dolittle

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Mommy Serena wins Grand Slam return

PARIS (AP)—For all that has changed in the 16 months since Serena Williams last played in a Grand Slam tournament —she is now married and a mother—so much was familiar about her at the French Open on Tuesday.

The fashion statement, this time in the form of a black bodysuit with a red belt that she said made her feel like a "warrior princess." The cries of "Come on!" The big serves that provided 13 aces. The returns that eventually produced three consecutive breaks of serve.

And, yes, the victory. Competing as a mom for the first time at a major, and only about nine months since giving birth to her daughter, Alexis Olympia, then dealing with postpartum complications, Williams edged 70th-ranked Kristyna Pliskova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (4), 6-4 at Roland Garros.

Already a transcendent sports star and cultural icon, Williams now carries a new title: working mother.

"Well, my priority is Olympia. No matter what, that's my priority. I have given tennis so much, and tennis has actually given me a lot, and I couldn't be more grateful," Williams said. "She's my priority, and I work everything around her."

The 36-year-old American had not played in one of tennis's biggest tournaments since winning the Australian Open in January 2017 for her 23rd Grand Slam title, breaking a tie with Steffi Graf for the most in the professional era.

Williams, the world found out later, was pregnant at the time. Her baby was born Sept. 1; Williams married Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian in November.

Williams eventually revealed that she had an emergency cesarean section, then encountered trouble breathing afterward because of a pulmonary embolism and needed a follow-up operation.

"Just literally not sure if I was going to make it or not at several different times," Williams said. "A lot of people have really reached out, because they have so many similar stories, too. I feel like a lot of people don't talk about it. They talk about the baby and how happy they are. But it's a lot that goes into it with the pregnancy and with giving birth, and it's called a 'miracle' for a reason."

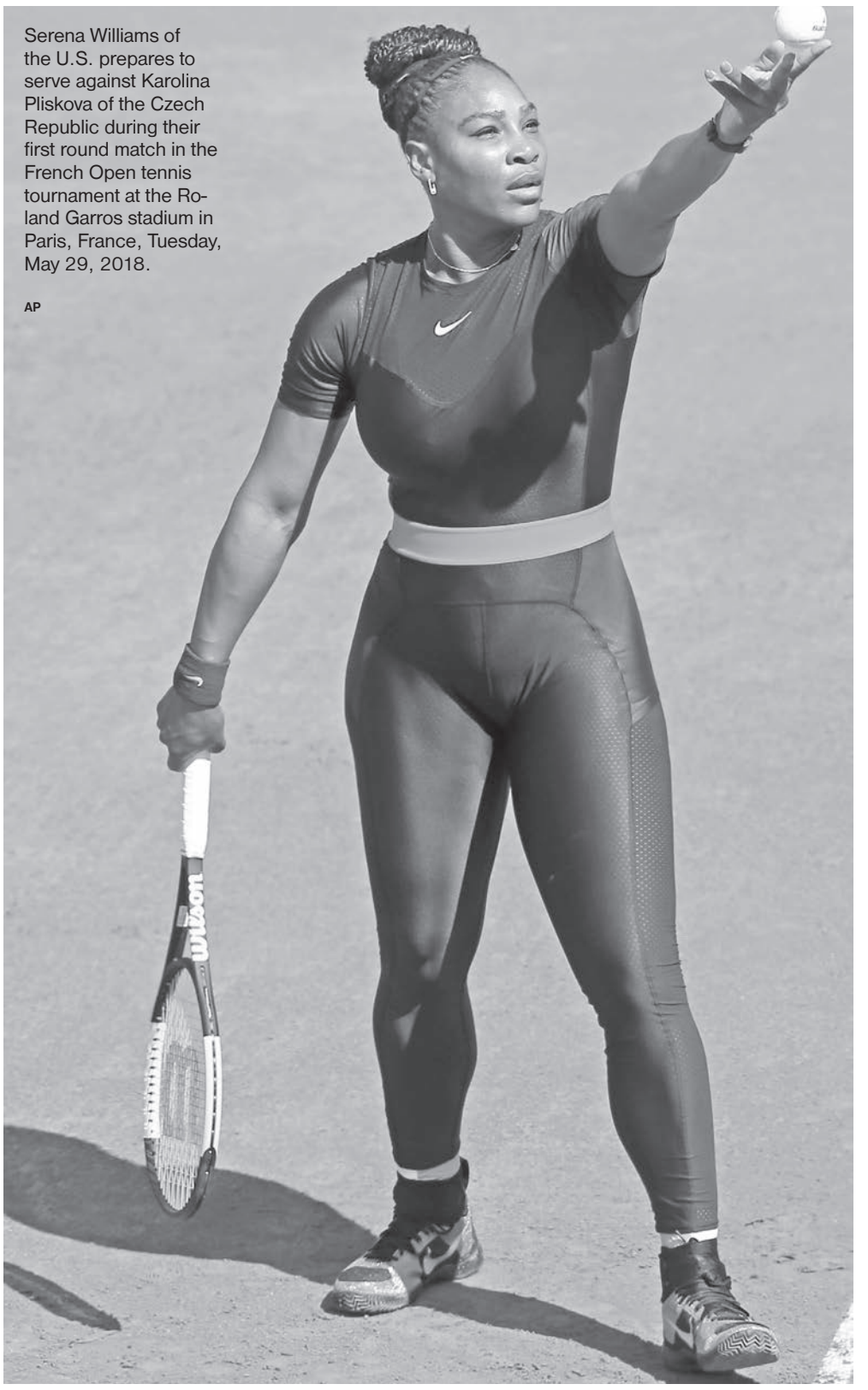
The first match of her comeback was in doubles alongside her older sister, Venus, for the U.S. Fed Cup team in February. She entered two tournaments in singles the next month, going 2-2. An absence of more than two months followed, until Tuesday in Paris.

So a woman who has spent hundreds of weeks ranked No. 1 is currently No. 451 and unseeded at the French Open, a subject of some debate: Should her past success accord her the protection a seeding offers? Williams faces 17th-seeded Ash Barty of Australia next.

"She's a genuine champion," Barty said. "What she's done to be able to get back ... is a pretty amazing thing."

Tuesday's return was striking, from Williams' powerful shots to her outfit, which called to mind the "catsuit" she wore at the 2002 U.S. Open.

It was by far the most significant event of Day 3 at Roland Garros, even though there were so many other Grand Slam champions in action. Rafael Nadal finished off a rain-interrupted victory as he begins his try for a record-extending 11th French Open title. Maria Sharapova, a two-time champ in Paris, was pushed to three sets in a win. Garbine Muguruza, who beat Williams in the 2016 final at Roland Garros, beat another past champion, Svetlana Kuznetsova.



Serena Williams of the U.S. prepares to serve against Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during their first round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

AP

All eyes were on Williams, though. On the fifth point, she delivered an ace at 112 mph (181 kph). Moments later, the chair umpire intoned, "Jeu, Madame Williams," —French for "Game, Mrs. Williams," a change from the "Mademoiselle" used for unmarried female players.

Pliskova, a lefty whose twin sister upset Williams in the 2016 U.S. Open semifinals, actually hit more aces, 15. That's the most anyone has hit against Williams since at least 2008, according to the WTA.

Indeed, Williams appeared to have trouble reading Pliskova's serves early on. There were other blips, of the sort to be expected from someone who hasn't played lately. Williams double-faulted seven times. She had nearly as many unforced errors, 25, as winners, 29.

But she is not simply skilled. She is smart, too, and she figured things out.

After trailing 3-0 in the tiebreaker, she reeled off six points in a row. After falling behind 2-0 in the second set, Williams came up with a trio of service breaks.

All was not perfect, of course. In the final game, Williams' right foot gave way as she sprinted toward the net and she landed on her backside. At least she was able to laugh at that as she went to the sideline to towel off. A spectator yelled: "That's all right, Serena! You still look great!"

After months of worrying more about diapers than drop shots, of breastfeeding for what she called "a really, really, really long time," of organizing her practice schedule around her newborn's nap schedule, Williams was back to doing what she's most famous for, in an arena where she earned trophies in 2002, 2013 and 2015.

Royals outlast Twins in 14 innings on Escobar's homer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Alcides Escobar was one of the least likely Kansas City Royals to belt a home run in extra innings.

The light-hitting shortstop had not gone deep in 140 at-bats, and his only long ball this season came on April 17.

Escobar, however, sent a drive to left field with two outs in the 14th inning Tuesday night to give the Royals a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

He connected on a 3-1 pitch from Taylor Rogers (1-2), ending a game that took 4 hours, 12 minutes. Rain also delayed the start by 24 minutes.

"I knew right away," Escobar said. "When I hit the ball, I said, `Game over.' Of all my home runs, this is the best one because this is my first walk-off homer."

Scott Barlow (1-0) worked four hitless innings, striking out five straight batters during one stretch, to earn his first major league win.

"My phone has been blowing up saying congrats," Barlow said. "It's certainly one I'll remember forever."

The Twins have eight walk-off losses, four in extra innings.

Yankees 6, Astros 5

In New York, Brett Gardner tied it with his second homer of the game, a one-out, two-run drive in the ninth inning, Gleyber Torres hit a winning single in the 10th and the Yankees rallied to beat the Houston Astros.

The Yankees won despite making five errors—including two by Torres at second base—for the first time since 2014.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 3

In Boston, Sandy Leon hit a home run and two doubles, Xander Bogaerts also homered and Rick Porcello took a three-hitter into the seventh inning, helping Boston beat Toronto to match the second-best start in franchise history.

Cardinals 6, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Michael Wacha pitched two-hit ball for 6 2/3 innings and St. Louis connected for three home runs.

Cubs 8, Pirates 6

In Pittsburgh, Anthony Rizzo shook off the boos and sparked a late rally with his ninth home run as Chicago beat reeling Pittsburgh.

Jon Lester (5-2) allowed four runs in six innings but had the second multihit game of his 13-year career by going 2 for 3 with an RBI single in the sixth that drew the Cubs within a run.

Indians 7, White Sox 3

In Cleveland, Michael Brantley, Jose Ramirez and Jason Kipnis each hit a solo home run to lift Cleveland over Chicago.

Brantley was 3 for 4 and extended his hitting streak to 18 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

Nationals 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Bryce Harper hit his NL-leading 17th home run, Mark Reynolds added a solo shot and Washington beat Baltimore to extend its road winning streak to nine games.

Braves 7, Mets 6

In Atlanta, Johan Camargo homered with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning after Atlanta rallied from a pair of four-run deficits, stunning New York and capping a miserable day for the injury-plagued Mets.

Rockies 11, Giants 4

In Denver, Kyle Freeland pitched effectively into the sixth inning and doubled in Colorado's three-run fourth, leading the Rockies over a San Francisco team that lost two pitchers to injury, including starter Jeff Samardzija.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 2

In Phoenix, Daniel Descalso hit a two-run homer, Zack Godley pitched six effective innings and Arizona defeated Cincinnati.

The Diamondbacks broke out of a nearly monthlong hitting slump in the series opener Monday, scoring a season-high 12 runs.

Angels 9, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Ian Kinsler hit a three-run homer, Luis Valbuena went deep twice and Los Angeles routed Detroit.

Nick Tropeano (3-3) benefited from the Angels' offensive display, allowing two runs in 5 1/3 innings for the win.

Warriors await word on Iguodala as LeBron looms

In this June 7, 2017 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) drives between Golden State Warriors' Matt Barnes (22) and Andre Iguodala (9) during the second half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland.

AP

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— The Golden State Warriors could be without one of their top defenders when they open the NBA Finals against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Andre Iguodala's status for Game 1 on Thursday night is a question as he recovers from a bone bruise in his left knee. Iguodala missed the final four games of the Western Conference finals against Houston, the latest bit of uncertainty plaguing the defending champions this postseason.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr says the 2015 Finals MVP will return once he can run without pain. The Warriors could use him against King James, who is making his eighth straight Finals appearance and fourth consecutive against the Warriors.

Cleveland's Kevin Love is in the concussion protocol and may not be ready for Game 1, either.

Meanwhile, the odds are longer than a Stephen Curry 3-pointer, Kevin Durant's wingspan or Draymond Green's catalog of technical fouls.

James and the Cavaliers are being given little—or no—chance of winning their fourth straight NBA Finals matchup against the Golden State Warriors, who have been installed by Las Vegas bookmakers as the heaviest favorites in the past 16 years.

Wanna bet?

The Warriors are 12-point favorites to win Thursday's Game 1, the largest spread in a Finals game since 1991, according to ESPN Stats & Information.

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue isn't blinking.

"We're all focused on winning a championship," Lue said Tuesday before the team flew to California. "We played our best basketball going into the playoffs. We've gotten better and better throughout the course of the playoffs. Our main focus and our main objective is to win a championship, so we can't worry about what the outside guys are saying and who's being picked. We know what we have here and what we're trying to do."

Lue said All-Star forward Kevin Love remains in concussion protocol and his status for the series opener is in question. Love sat out Cleveland's Game 7 win at Boston on Sunday after suffering a head injury when he and Celtics rookie forward Jayson Tatum accidentally banged heads during the opening minutes of Game 6.

Love was replaced in the starting lineup by veteran Jeff Green, who stepped up and scored 19 points as the Cavs completed their comeback after trailing 2-0 and 3-2 in the series.

Love is expected back for the Finals, and Lue needs his experience against the Warriors, who like the Cavs rallied to win the Western Conference finals by taking Game 7 on the road.

There was a moment when it looked as if both Cleveland and Golden State could miss the Finals.

It disappeared quickly,

"They've been tested. We've been tested," Lue said. "They've been to Game 7s. We've been to Game 7s. We've won championships and they've won championships, so they understand what it takes and they knew what it took."

Since the playoffs opened, Cleveland has embraced the "Whatever It Takes" mantra that began as a catchy organizational slogan and morphed into a way of survival.

The Cavs have twice been pushed to seven games, overcome injuries and gotten much-needed contributions to ease the burden on James from role players Green, Jordan Clarkson and Larry Nance Jr.

However, in this series when every possession will be magnified, Lue will count on four players who have been around since the Cavs first met the Warriors in the 2015 Finals.

And because they won a championship in 2016 together, the core four of James, Love, J.R. Smith and Tristan Thompson share something special.

Rockets lament missed chances after losing to Warriors

HOUSTON (AP)— The Houston Rockets were up by 14 in the second quarter against the Golden State Warriors when they started missing from 3-point range. They shot themselves all the way from prime position to advance to the NBA Finals to the end of a solid season.

James Harden was the first to miss. Eric Gordon soon bricked one, and P.J. Tucker did the same. It was miss after miss after miss as the cold streak stretched to nine by halftime. There were 14 more in the third quarter in a surprising performance for a team that relied on the 3 all season. By the time Tucker connected with about 6 1/2 minutes left, the Rockets had missed an NBA-record 27 straight 3-pointers and the Warriors were on their way to a 101-92 victory.

Though Gordon believes the result would have been different if Houston had Chris Paul for the last two games of the Western Conference finals, saying: "if he was out there, we'd have been playing on Thursday," the rest of the Rockets agreed that even the nine-time All-Star probably couldn't have changed things on a night their shooting was historically bad.

"It's a grown man's league," Tucker said. "It doesn't matter, next man up. You've got to play. You've got to win. It doesn't matter who plays, step up."

The Rockets led the NBA by making an average of 15.3 3-pointers on their way to a franchise-record 65 wins in their second year in coach Mike D'Antoni's high-octane offense. They made it to the conference finals for the first time since 2015, but were unable to overcome their worst shooting game of the postseason.

Houston made just 7 of 44 attempts in Game 7 on Monday night. Trevor Ariza was 0 for 9. Harden missed his last 11 tries in a 2-for-13 night, and Gordon connected on just 2 of 12 attempts.

"The first half, just our energy defensively was different. That created more opportunities for the 3 and they went in," Harden said. "As a result of that, we got a double-digit lead going into halftime. Those same opportunities were there in the second half, we just didn't make them. They made tough shots. That's it pretty much."

It was a bitter end to a sweet year for Houston.

Harden turned in an MVP-caliber regular season to help the Rockets get the NBA's top seed for the first time in franchise history. Many doubted that he would play well with Paul after the point guard was acquired in a trade with the Clippers. But the two meshed nicely and helped the Rockets to a 3-2 lead in the conference finals before Paul's season ended with a hamstring injury in Game 5.

"They were devastated ... we thought we were so close," D'Antoni said. "We had it. We thought we had it. We had the first half ... tip your hat to them, but at the same time guys gave everything they've got, so it's normal to be devastated. I think they're still proud of the work we did, but at the same time, it hurts."

Now the Rockets have to figure out what it will take to get over the hump next year. They have some big decisions to make with Paul, Ariza and center Clint Capela eligible for free agency. Some believe Houston could make a run at LeBron James if he chooses to leave Cleveland, but the Rockets would have to make a lot of changes to their roster to be able to afford him.

76ers agree to 3-year extension with Brett Brown

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— The Philadelphia 76ers will continue to put their trust in coach Brett Brown.

Brown, who took the 76ers from 10 wins to the third seed in the Eastern Conference in just two seasons, has agreed to a three-year contract extension that runs through the 2021-2022 season.

A person familiar with the situation confirmed the deal to The Associated Press. The person spoke Tuesday night on condition of anonymity because the contract has not been officially announced.

Brown had one year left on his contract. The extension is a sign the franchise believes he's still the right coach to lead the Sixers into Eastern Conference contention.

The Sixers won 52 games this season and beat Miami in the first round of the playoffs before they were eliminated in the conference semis by Boston.

Under Brown's watch, Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons have blossomed into two of the top young players in the league. Brown was hired as the Sixers were about to undergo their rebuilding process that became known as "The Process." The 76ers won 19, 18 and 10 games in each of Brown's first three seasons. The Sixers won 28 games in 2016-17 and made the first playoffs this season for the first time since 2012.

Even with two 26-game losing streaks on his resume, the front office has never wavered in its feeling that Brown is the right coach for a franchise that last won a championship in 1983. Brown is 127-283 (.310) with one winning record in five seasons.

Team president Bryan Colangelo said days after the Sixers were eliminated he planned to offer Brown an extension.

"I don't think it's the healthiest of situations for coaches to go into a season with one year remaining on their contracts. It impacts so many aspects of what you're doing," he said.

Triple J Saipan backs up regional track meet

With the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 just around the corner, Triple J Saipan has stepped up to the plate, joining the growing list of generous supporters of the competition.

Triple J Saipan through Hertz Rent A Car, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Surf Club will be providing assistance to athletes and officials participating in the June 14 to 16 event at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

Hertz and Triple J Rentals Micronesian general manager Alex Camacho said they will offer discounted rates to visiting athletes, who will also get affordable accommodations at Surfrider Resort Hotel. Ray Tebuteb, president of the Northern Marianas Athletics, which is organizing the three-day tournament, added that Surf Club will host the welcome reception for visiting athletes and officials.

From left, Triple J Saipan, Inc. corporate marketing manager Maria Valentina Haberman, Hertz general manager Alex Camacho, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Inc. & Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos, Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tabuteb, Triple J Saipan, Inc. human resources director Frank Ada, Triple J Saipan, Inc. corporate controller Tracy Guerrero, and Surfrider Resort Hotel, assistant general manager Galina Iakimova pose for a group photo during the announcement of Triple J Saipan's support to the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nearly 200 individuals from Palau, Guam, the Federates States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru will be on island to participate in the regional meet, which will serve as preview to the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap in July.

"We are very thankful to Triple J Saipan for their support. We would not be able to host a big event like this without the support of generous companies like Triple J and the CNMI government," Tebuteb said.

"We are excited with the competition ahead as this will give us a peek on what to expect in the Micro Games in Yap. Let us support not only our athletes, but the rest of the competitors in the tournament," the NMA head added.

Camacho echoed Tebuteb's call, saying that the community should give their warmest welcome to the visitors. He added that Triple J Saipan has been a consistent supporter of activities in the community, including sports competitions.

"Come out during the tournament and cheer for all the athletes," Camacho said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Martin hopes move to Raiders provides fresh start to career

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Doug Martin was in need of a new start after two straight subpar seasons led to his offseason release by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Getting the chance to do it near his boyhood home in Northern California, with an Oakland team featuring a strong offensive line and a coach in Jon Gruden eager to establish a powerful running attack, only made the decision to join the Raiders even easier.

Now Martin wants to prove he can get back to the form that made him a Pro Bowler twice in his first four seasons.

"My approach is just basically I'm a rookie again," Martin said. "I have to prove to the team and the players, coaches that I can be useful on this team. Like I said, I just act like a rookie and go out and play. Play the game that I love."

Martin has had a roller-coaster career since entering the league with Tampa Bay as a first-round pick out of Boise State in 2012. He is the only player currently on an NFL roster with two seasons of at least 1,400 yards rushing, reaching that mark as a rookie with the Bucs and then again three years later in Tampa Bay.

But he has failed to reach 500 yards rushing in his other four seasons in the NFL and is also the only active player with two seasons averaging fewer than 3 yards per carry with at least 100 attempts, doing that the past two years when he was hampered by injuries and a four-game suspension for violating the league policy on performance-enhancing drugs.

Martin also was suspended one game last year by the Bucs for a violation of team rules, all contributing to the decision by Tampa Bay to cut him this offseason.

"The past couple of years I just got in my own way," he said. "Being here and having my family around and old friends, it's definitely going to help me stay busy. I can always confide in them if I need something to talk about."

Martin, who grew up in nearby Stockton, fondly remembers his only other trip to the Bay Area as a professional when he ran for 251 yards on 25 carries in Oakland as a rookie in 2012 with about 50 friends and family members in the crowd.

Martin also said the opportunity to run Bay Area hills near his grandfather's house has helped get him in top condition that he hopes will benefit him once the season begins.

That work has shown up on the field.

"He finished a run to the end zone today and didn't stop until he got there and then he ran back to make sure he's getting even more in shape," quarterback Derek Carr said. "It's little things like that that show young guys, `Hey man, that's how you do it.' That's been since Day 1. He's been one of the hardest workers since we got here in Phase 1, hands down. He's been one of the guys out there that just every day sticks out doing something where you see why he's a Pro Bowler."

The Raiders are hoping Martin will fit in well in a backfield led by Marshawn Lynch, who rushed for 524 yards and five TDs in his final eight games last season, ranking tied for third in that span in yards rushing per game.

Oakland didn't get much consistent help from backups Jalen Richard and DeAndre Washington a year ago, leading to the move to add Martin to the mix.

PAIRE

From Page 28

In its third matchup against the U16 WNT this season, Shirley's picked up where it left off, dominating its foes right out of the gate. Shirley's won their second meeting, 5-1, while the U16 WNT edged out the former in the first round, 3-2.

Shirley's sealed their third meeting after taking a 6-1 halftime lead. Jun Liu led Shirley's strong start as he made a hat trick right in the first half after scoring in the ninth, 24th, and 27th minute. Guo Heng Piao added a pair in the 13th and 19th minute, while Jerry Tan delivered one in the 30th. Angie Ito scored the lone goal for the U16 WNT in the first half when she hit the board in the 39th minute.

In the second half, Liu slowed down and was held to one field goal, but young guns Jedidiah Peteru and Jeralyn Castillo stepped up to finish off the U16 WNT. Castillo's brace were recorded in the 48th and 76th minute, while Peteru had the same feat in the 62nd and 78th.

Ito had one more goal for the ousted U16 WNT, while Katrina Costales made the other goal for the losing squad in the second half.

In the other playoff game in Division B, Sun Palace blanked Pacific Islands Club, 4-0, to set up a semis tiff against No. 2 Matansa this Sunday at 2pm.

Daniel Pablo towed Sun Palace to the semis after scoring in the 57th and 67th minute, while Brian Lubao and Feng Yu chipped in one apiece in the 26th and 59th, respectively.

In Division A, Paire booked the fourth and last semis ticket after downing Kanoa last weekend at the Hopwood Middle School Field, 4-2.

Four different players hit the board for Paire with Peter Loken starting things off for the squad after finding his target in the 24th minute. Paire went on to post a 3-1 halftime edge, thanks to Gerard Van Gils and Jonathan Takano's goals in the 28th and 36th minute, respectively. Daniel Agulto closed out for Paire in the 70th minute, while Kanoa got its two goals from Ian Maniago and Ruselle Zapanta in the 31st and 65th.

After dispatching Kanoa, Paire will go up against TanHoldings in this Sunday's 1:30pm battle for the first finals berth in the division. TanHoldings finished second in the preliminary to get one of the two automatic semis berths.

MP United notched the other outright Final Four ticket after being ranked first in the division and will collide against the Teen Ayuyus in the other semis match also this Sunday at 3:30pm. The Teen Ayuyus earned the third semis slot in their group following a 2-0 triumph over Okadaya.

Rintaro Miyawaki and Taka Borja fired the two late goals for Teen Ayuyus with the former scoring in the 72nd minute and the latter three minutes later.

PANGELINAN

From Page 28

RBIs. The Little Legals went on to end the second inning with a 6-3 advantage.

Pangelinan then kept the Little Legals in control with his steady pitching in the second to the early part of the fifth inning. After giving up four hits in the first inning alone, Pangelinan yielded only three hits in the next 3.2 innings he worked the mound. He also had six strikeouts.

Meanwhile, Sablan earned the regular season MVP honors for ruling two other categories and figuring in the Top 10 in three more. The Braves pitcher had the best ERA with his 0.75 and also topped the strikeouts race after fanning 88.

In other categories, the Little Legals' Cardi Borja was the batting and triples champion. He had a batting average of .600 and collected three triples. Borja's teammate Benji Palacios ruled the RBI category after registering 18, while Pangelinan had the most doubles with 10.

Noah Aguon was the lone Falcons player to receive an individual award after getting the most runs in the season with his 22, while the Pirates' Charlie McDonald and Deandrey Cruz shared the homerun king honors.

In the team awards, the Falcons were handed out the pennant crown for sweeping the 12 games in the regular season, while the Comets took the sportsmanship trophy.

GOVERNOR'S

From Page 28

by various organizations on island and their worthy causes.

Aldan-Pierce also acknowledged all the TOC sponsors, players, and volunteers, as through their support TOC manages to continue its beautification projects on Saipan and also extend a helping hand to other members of the community.

Meanwhile, Dong Kyu Lee, Ken Duenas, Franklin Champaco, Joung Hoon Park, Nick Sablan, Chang Hee Yoo, and Yong Sook Kwon ruled their respective flights in the tournament held over the weekend.

Kwon topped the Ladies Low Net contest after shooting a 153.8 in two rounds. Teresita Blair (154.8) and Rose Tarpley (155.8) joined Kwon in the Top 3. In the Low Gross category, Yoo fired a 158 for a one-shot lead over Yuko Togawa, while Me Ae Jeon made it to the Top 3 after scoring 162.

In the A Flight, there was also a close fight with Dong Kyu beating Young Woo Lee in the playoff. The two golfers recorded identical scores of 163. Peter Tenorio was three shots behind to settle for third place.

In the B Flight, Duenas was the runaway winner after carding a 162, while Ray Aguon (173) defeated Das Krishnan (173) in the playoff for the runner-up honors.

In the C Flight, Champaco edged junior golfer Sebastian Camacho as the former logged 174 against the latter's 75. Ron Benavente rounded out the Top 3 after recording a 178.

In the Seniors Flight, Park and Freddie Cataluna had similar scores of 148, but the Korean won in the playoff to place first. Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho was at close third with his 149. In the Super Senior, Sablan's 154 beat the 156 and 168 of Victor Borja and Dennis Williams.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Uruguay is top bet in Group A, Egypt lurking behind

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune *will run a series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia. Today, we are featuring teams in Group A)*

MOSCOW (AP)—Uruguay is the overwhelming pick to top Group A, but Egypt poses a big threat to the South American nation, especially if Mohamed Salah recovers from injury in time for next month's competition. The Luis Suarez-Mohamed Salah faceoff would be interesting to watch when Uruguay battles Egypt.

Surviving the group stage will be tough, but is the best possible result for Russia, which is in the limelight not only because it will host the tournament, but also due to the controversies surrounding its players. The odds are all against Saudi Arabia as far as moving past the group stage or even winning a single match is concerned.

RUSSIA

When the Russians launched their bid to host the World Cup for the first time after, they were on a high after reaching the semifinals at the 2008 European Championship.

Times have changed.

Russia goes into the draw as the lowest-ranked of the 32 teams after failing to advance past the group stage of any tournament since 2008. Ambitious talk of reaching the quarterfinals or even semifinals has faded.

There are off-field problems, too, with reports of disputes between players and the coach. Hooligan rampages at Euro 2016 tarnished Russia's image, with the country threatened with expulsion from the tournament in France.

KEY PLAYER: *Igor Akinfeev (CSKA Moscow)*—A talented goalkeeper who captains the team, Akinfeev has tended to make mistakes in big games.

COACH: *Stanislav Cherchesov*—After experiments with expensive foreign recruits like Fabio Capello and Guus Hiddink, Russia goes into the World Cup with a dour, defense-first former goalkeeper.

URUGUAY

Only Brazil had a more solid performance in South American qualifying than Uruguay. Though some of the team's players started fading, new ones have emerged for the World Cup.

Defender Diego Godin (31) and strikers Edinson Cavani (30) and Luis Suarez (30) still trouble opponents. But youngsters like midfielders Federico Valverde (19) and Nahitan Nandez (21) have become frequent starters.

KEY PLAYER: *Edinson Cavani* (Paris Saint-Germain)—Top scorer of the South American qualifiers with 10 goals in 18 matches, Cavani has been more deadly for Uruguay than Barcelona's Luis Suarez.

COACH: *Oscar Tabarez*—Will coach Uruguay for his fourth World Cup, the third in a row. The 70-year-old Tabarez has used a wheelchair since he was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome in 2016.

EGYPT

Egypt waited a long time to be back at the World Cup. The record seven-time African champions last qualified in 1990.

The team hit new lows recently, failing to even qualify for the African Cup of Nations from 2012-15. It's back now, reaching the final of this year's African Cup and following that up with a long-awaited World Cup return.

KEY PLAYER: *Mohamed Salah* (Liverpool)—Delivered when it counted with five goals in six games in the final round of qualifiers, including the late penalty that took Egypt to the World Cup.

COACH: *Hector Cuper*—There have been murmurs of discontent over the conservative style favored by the Argentine coach. His team focuses on defense first and counterattacks when it can. There can be no denying Cuper's tactics have been successful, though.

SAUDI ARABIA

Preparations for Russia have been far from ideal since qualifying for a fifth World Cup with two coaches fired.

Edgardo Bauza was dismissed nine days before the draw after only five friendlies in charge. The team lost to Portugal and Bulgaria.

Bauza had been appointed in September 2017 to replace Bert van Marwijk, who was fired despite leading the team to its first World Cup since 2006.

Juan Antonio Pizzi, who was named as the new coach in December 2017, will be tasked with improving on Saudi Arabia's best-ever performance at World Cup — the second-round exit at the 1994 tournament in the United States.

KEY PLAYER: *Mohammad Al-Sahlawi* (Al-Nassr)—The 30-year-old striker was instrumental in helping the Saudis reach the tournament with 16 goals in qualifying.

COACH: Juan Antonio Pizzi—Pizzi led Chile to South America's continental championship in 2016—the first in their history. With the Argentine at the helm, Saudi managed to play friendlies against Algeria, Greece, Belgium, Peru, Italy and Germany, which Pizzi said were "a kind of World Cup game."

FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
Uruguay	9	72	51	20	12	19	80	71	1.4	12
Egypt	65	2	4	0	2	2	3	6	0.5	2
Russia	11	59	40	17	8	18	64	59	1.4	11
Saudi Arabia	50	8	13	2	2	9	9	32	0.6	4

MP : Matches played
GS : Goals scored
GA : Goals against
APPS : World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

GROUP A SCHEDULE

Russia	VS	Saudi Arabia
(June 15, 1AM, Moscow)		
Egypt	VS	Uruguay
(June 15, 10PM, Ekaterinburg)		
Russia	VS	Egypt
(June 20, 4AM, St. Petersburg)		
Uruguay	VS	Saudi Arabia
(June 21, 1AM, Rostov-on-Don)		
Saudi Arabia	VS	Egypt
(June 26, 12AM, Volgograd)		
Uruguay	VS	Russia
(June 26, 12AM, Samara)		

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

Mommy Serena wins Grand Slam return

Page 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Warriors await word on Iguodala as LeBron looms

Page 25

Paire, Shirley's enter semis

Paire Football Club's Jonathan Takano kicks the ball during an earlier Division A game in the 2018 Spring M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Paire is now in the semifinals after beating Kanoa last Sunday, 4-2.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and Paire FC barged into the semifinals of their respective divisions in the 2018 Spring M-League after eliminating their playoff opponents last Sunday.

In Division B, Shirley's walloped the CNMI U16 Women's National Team, 11-3, during their game at the Koblerville Elementary School Field to move into the Final Four round where it will face the top-ranked Korean Football Association this Sunday at 4pm. KFAS got the outright semis berth in the group after earning a field-best 9-0-1 win-draw-loss record, while Shirley's finished with a 4-1-5 card to rank fourth, losing the tiebreak to Sun Palace and winning over the U16 WNT.

See PAIRE on Page 26

Governor's TOC donates $30K to four groups

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As promised, part of the proceeds from the 23rd Governor's Tournament of Champions were donated to four non-profit groups to support their respective projects.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association was one of the recipients of the TOC proceeds, getting $10,000—the same amount given to the Lady Diane Torres Foundation. The 2018 Liberation Day Committee and Northern Marianas Athletics each received $5,000. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and TOC co-founder and DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce handed the ceremonial check donation to the representatives of the four groups during the awards ceremony for the tournament last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Torres, in a brief speech, thanked all the supporters of TOC, adding that their generosity goes a long way, as they provide the help needed

See GOVERNOR'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth left, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, third left, and Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera pose with the recipients of the proceeds from the 23rd Governor's Tournament of Champions and supporters of the annual event during the donation turnover ceremony last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

Pangelinan, Sablan win MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kagman Little Legals' G-Boy Pangelinan and NSA Braves' Jylon Sablan brought home the MVP awards handed out at the conclusion of the Majors division contest in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Pangelinan took the Finals MVP plum, while Sablan gained the regular season MVP trophy.

The Little Legals pitcher towed his team to a 6-4 win over the Talaabwogh Falcons in their title showdown last Monday. His two-run single at the top of the second inning shifted momentum of the finals to the Little Legals. The eventual champions were down after the first inning, 1-3, and tied the match with Reed Camacho and Stanley's Iakopo's runs before grabbing the driver's seat off Pangelinan's two

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Little Legals' G-Boy Pangelinan hurls during the bottom of the fourth inning of their title game against the Falcons in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

See PANGELINAN on Page 26